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SWINBURNE AND LANDOR



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TORONTO

SWINBURNE AND LANDOR

A STUDY OF THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP
AND ITS EFFECT ON SWINBURNE'S MORAL
AND POETIC DEVELOPMENT

BY

W. BROOKS DRAYTON HENDERSON

... the Olympian sire,
Whom I too loved and worshipped, seeing so great
 And found so gracious toward my long desire
To bid that love in song before his gate
 Sound, and my lute be loyal to his lyre.

SWINBURNE,

Song for the Centenary of Walter Savage Landor.

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
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PREFACE

THE better part of this Essay, together with its Appendices, was submitted to the faculty of Princeton University in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English Literature, in 1915. I am especially indebted to Professor Thomas Marc Parrott for much encouragement and advice in connection with its development, both up to that time and subsequently, and to Professor Duncan Spaeth. Acknowledgment is also due to Mr. William Heinemann, the owner of the Swinburne copyrights, by whose very kind permission the quotations from Swinburne's verse and prose are used.

W. B. D. H.

LONDON,
October 17, 1917.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

EXPLANATORY	PAGE
	I

CHAPTER II

PERSONALIA—

I. LANDOR	II
II. SWINBURNE	31

CHAPTER III

SWINBURNE'S LANDOR	52
-------------------------------------	-----------

CHAPTER IV

FIRST EVIDENCES	69
----------------------------------	-----------

CHAPTER V

"TOO MUCH LOVE OF LIVING"	85
--------------------------------------------	-----------

CHAPTER VI

"OPPRESSIVE HEAVEN"	121
--------------------------------------	------------

CHAPTER VII

TRANSITION	143
-----------------------------	------------

CHAPTER VIII

“SONGS BEFORE SUNRISE” AND “SONGS OF TWO NATIONS”

CHAPTER IX

FOR GREECE AND ATHENS

CHAPTER X

“THALASSIUS”

CHAPTER XI

DE AMORE

CHAPTER XII

EPILOGUE

APPENDICES

APPENDICES I. TO VI. ON THE CHRONOLOGY OF “POEMS AND BALLADS,” FIRST SERIES.

APPENDIX VII. SWINBURNE AND BAUDELAIRE

APPENDIX VIII. SWINBURNE AND MATTHEW ARNOLD

APPENDIX IX. SWINBURNE AND GEORGE MEREDITH’S “MODERN LOVE”

APPENDIX X. NOTES ON VICTOR HUGO’S INFLUENCE ON SWINBURNE’S EARLY WORK

BIBLIOGRAPHY

NOTES

INDEX

CHAPTER I

EXPLANATORY

SWINBURNE has doubtless been more wildly ^{CHAPTER} I. praised and blamed than any other writer of his generation! And on this account, if on no other, the period of impressionistic comment upon him seems to have come to its logical end. What is now needed, says a reviewer of a recent essay on the poet, is a study of his development that shall keep a steady eye upon contemporaneous movements of thought and affairs in England and on the Continent.

Accepting the programme as outlined by the reviewer, only with a great many limitations, this essay is an attempt to meet the need described.

It proposes to study Swinburne's development in some relationship to those aspects of thought or artistic expression or political affairs that most attracted him; but chiefly in connection with a great spiritual force which (if we may believe his own testimony) to a considerable degree stimulated his bearing, perhaps even determined his attitude toward these matters. This force was Walter Savage Landor.

Swinburne knew him personally for a little

CHAPTER VIII

“SONGS BEFORE SUNRISE” AND “SONGS OF TWO NATIONS”

PAGE
149

CHAPTER IX

FOR GREECE AND ATHENS 206

CHAPTER X

“THALASSIUS” 214

CHAPTER XI

DE AMORE 225

CHAPTER XII

EPILOGUE 236

APPENDICES

APPENDICES I. TO VI. ON THE CHRONOLOGY OF “POEMS
AND BALLADS,” FIRST SERIES 243

APPENDIX VII. SWINBURNE AND BAUDELAIRE 274

APPENDIX VIII. SWINBURNE AND MATTHEW ARNOLD 278

APPENDIX IX. SWINBURNE AND GEORGE MEREDITH’S
“MODERN LOVE” 281APPENDIX X. NOTES ON VICTOR HUGO’S INFLUENCE ON
SWINBURNE’S EARLY WORK 284

BIBLIOGRAPHY 287

NOTES 289

INDEX 302

CHAPTER I

EXPLANATORY

SWINBURNE has doubtless been more wildly ^{CHAPTER} I. praised and blamed than any other writer of his generation.¹ And on this account, if on no other, the period of impressionistic comment upon him seems to have come to its logical end. What is now needed, says a reviewer of a recent essay on the poet, is a study of his development that shall keep a steady eye upon contemporaneous movements of thought and affairs in England and on the Continent. *

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Swinburne knew him personally for a little

CHAPTER I. while when Landor was a very old man. He had come to know Landor's work when a mere child, and gave him a veneration compact of admiration for it and of that exquisite devotion to very old people of which he was so pre-eminently capable. He professes that Landor told him certain definite truths about life and a man's duty in it, and that these profoundly affected him. When Landor died, Swinburne made him the supreme hero of his Pantheon, and thereafter was constantly profuse in giving him praise for this counsel and companionship. I propose to accept these professions as true, and as the true external explanations of Swinburne's development; and to show that the relationship they imply with Landor is confirmed both by Landor's writings and by his own.

At the same time the matter is not entirely simple. He had two other great heroes, Victor Hugo and Giuseppe Mazzini, besides many lesser ones, and so eulogises them at times that they and not Landor would seem to be his real masters. Furthermore all his expressions of allegiance or of indebtedness tend toward extravagance. Both of these facts need consideration.

Of the two, the first is the simpler. Hugo and Mazzini were noble inspirations for him: but Mazzini's influence was chiefly restricted to politics, as will be shown later; and Hugo's, political also, is almost indeterminate. Landor's is general. Swinburne had more points of contact with him, and was able to give him an intimate filial devotion that was more human and tender than his adoration of the other two

men. He says, speaking of his triple hero-worship almost at the end of his life, that he knew all three of them, “the three living gods, I do not say of my idolatry, for idolatry is a term inapplicable where the gods are real and true, but of my whole-souled and single-hearted worship. . . . When writing of Landor, of Mazzini, and of Hugo, I write of men who have honoured me with the assurance and the evidence of their cordial and affectionate regard. However inadequate and unworthy may be my tribute to their glory when living and their memory when dead, it is that of one whose gratitude and devotion found unforgettable favour in their sight” (1). In this enumeration of them, consideration for time order gave Landor the first place: but not this alone. For in the same “Dedicatory Epistle” to the collected edition of his poems from which the passage is taken, he makes it plain that in matters of belief he was not in complete agreement with his two Continental masters: “You know that I never pretended to see eye to eye with my illustrious friends and masters, Victor Hugo and Giuseppe Mazzini, in regard to the positive and passionate confidence of their sublime and purified theology” (2). In a poem, “To Victor Hugo” (*Poems and Ballads*, 1st Series), which marks almost as surely the beginning, as the prose passage does the climax of his thinking, the cry is from hopeless lips to eyes of hope, and he recognises almost bitterly the division between his thought and that of this master:

Thou art lord and king ; but we
Lift younger eyes and see
Less of high hope, less light on wandering hours.

He raises no such cry to Landor ; no word of dissent, except from Landor's mordant prejudice against France (distilled in Revolutionary fires). And even in that regard he unites with the older poet in hating all things named Napoleon. The cry he raises to him is that of serene sonship to an Olympian fatherhood, already quoted on the title-page in justification of such an attempt as this :

. . . the Olympian sire
Whom I too loved and worshipped, seeing so great
And found so gracious toward my long desire,
To bid that love in song before his gate
Sound, and my lute be loyal to his lyre.

He was in agreement with practically every tenet of Landor's philosophy, and even with some phases of Landor's temperament, being by birth and election and training Aristocrat and Republican and Hellenist, as Landor was before him. What he wrote of Landor might with complete accuracy be written of himself : that "his tender and ardent love for children, of animals, and of flowers make fragrant alike the pages of his writings and the records of his life" ; with little change that "his passionate compassion, his bitter and burning pity for all wrongs endured in the world found only their natural and inevitable outlet in his lifelong defence and advocacy of tyrannicide" ; and again with complete justice, in so far as it concerns his considered literary criticism, that "praise and encouragement . . .

came yet more readily to his lips than challenge CHAPTER
I.

Then there are moral and political doctrines, to be discussed later on, that he holds in common with Landor. Some of these similarities are doubtless the result of Landor's influence upon him. It is obvious, for example, that but for him Swinburne would never have made a lifelong defence and advocacy of tyrannicide. But by far the more important of the resemblances are not so much created as only made evident by the discipleship Swinburne so voluntarily undertook. He was in some respects temperamentally like Landor, his approach to life determined by the same forces that determined Landor's, by nature he loved the same things. But perceiving this inherent spiritual relationship he deliberately fostered it, because he realised in Landor the ideal achievement of his own type.

At least it is from this point of view that we intend to study the relationship between the two men—believing the electing love of the hero-worshipper to be at least as important in determining the path of his development as the trend of the hero he elects to worship.

It is then comradeship we would study, spiritual relationship. "Influence" might be the word, only that it has so often been used to imply subservience in matters of the spirit and copying in matters of style, and therefore does not suit this case. Swinburne was a proud individualist despite his genius for hero-worship, and but for his insistence that Landor affected him, probably no one would think of trying to

CHAPTER I. make such a study as this. The reason for it does not appear in those external details of their work in connection with which influence is provable, in these late days when ideas are more or less the common property of society and untraceable to any individual as their originator unless they have his mark of style upon them. For the styles of the two men are thoroughly dissimilar. Landor's is of the utmost classical austerity, whereas Swinburne's is thoroughly and ardently "romantic." Landor's medium of expression was, besides, most naturally prose : "Poetry was always my amusement, prose my study and business" (4). And Swinburne's medium is so ostentatiously verse that no one can read more than a few of his critical pages without being made aware, by the plunge and flood of foaming dithyrambics, that larger space is needed, more equable and certain measures than those of prose, in order that his genius may realise its highest possibility of beauty and of effectiveness. This stylistic or artistic individuality is further suggested by their own confessions.

When Landor says :

I see the rainbow in the sky,
The dew upon the grass.
I see them and I ask not why
They glimmer or they pass,
(viii. 71)

not impertinently we may waive the circumstance that places this quatrain in his *Miscellaneous Poems* of 1846 (his seventy-first year), and accept at its face value this assurance of a certain equability, poise, and calm realisation of natural

beauty that prove him temperamentally a CHAPTER
I. classicist.

Just so Swinburne in the presence of the sea proves himself "romantic"—poems in which he bears witness of "the matchless magic, the inevitable fascination of it"; or "such as try to render the effect of inland or woodland solitude—the splendid oppression of nature at noon which found utterance of old in words of such singular and everlasting significance as panic and nympholepsy" (5).

Between two such men obviously it is not possible to prove much interchange of thought. Occasionally seemingly unassailable indications of it may occur, moments when, as Swinburne might say, one may find borne to his stormy or quiescent coast some perfect shell from Landor's serene depths: perhaps, to an ear mindful of the sound of those waters, it may seem (in Landor's most remembered lines) that—

It remembers its august abodes
And murmurs as the ocean murmurs there.

(*Gebir*, i. 165.)

Veteres reminiscitur aedes
Oceanusque suus quo murmure murmurat illa.
(*Gebirus.*)

But such instances are rare.

"Influence," then, as ordinarily understood is unprovable in this case. Also, if we mean by it dictation of an active to a passive agent, it is unlikely. The nineteenth century echoes with just such ideas as find expression both in Landor's work and in Swinburne's, and with regard to a good many of their common interests one is

CHAPTER I. forced to conclude that Landor stimulated, but did not mould his disciple. Love of Italy and hope for her future is a case in point. Landor did not create it in Swinburne. Apart from Chaucer, Milton, Shelley, and the strong literary tradition of such an interest, it so happens that his mother, Lady Jane Henrietta Ashburnham, had been educated in Florence, and then and later spent much of her life there; so that love for "la città dei fiori" and its land may well have been one of the poet's very early sentiments. To reinforce it there were later influences enough, the Brownings, Meredith, Mazzini among them, as well as Landor; and one, the subtlest perhaps, because it sprang from the soil, felt in 1864, the year of Swinburne's visit to Italy and the so-called "pilgrimage to Landor." Of this influence the beauty and perfection of his *Itylus*, written in a garden in Fiesole with the whole air about him "vociferous with nightingales," is the choicest memorial. Much the same is true of his patriotism (which surely will be allowed to belong as birthright to a "Republican who was also an Englishman"), of his humanitarianism, and love of liberty, and anticlericalism. Shelley and Dickens and Hugo and Trelawny and countless others represent one or the other of these interests; so there is no utility in trying to make Swinburne derive them from Landor. And also there must be considered the ever present stimulus of contemporary political or social history. Yet Landor seems to have given an example to all these unsettled faiths or emotions. He helped to make them articulate in his disciple.

EXPLANATORY.

If, then, we turn to his opinions on these and other matters of his and of Swinburne's concern, it is with the hope, not that they will furnish us with absolute sources, but that they will elucidate Swinburne's. For this they are fitted eminently, being more clearly stated than Swinburne's, and with the memorable beauty and strength which make Landor one of the foremost writers of English prose ; being representative also of that aristocratic republicanism to which Landor and Swinburne so ardently subscribed. And in addition we must turn to the man himself. His heroic personality is the really important matter.

Swinburne had met similar opinions elsewhere without inspiring his spirit. So first a portrayal of the two men must be attempted that shall reveal, from Landor's works and biography, something of the inexhaustible beauty and the noble (if sometimes perverse) energy that attracted Swinburne to him ; and reveal Swinburne's eager genius and his capacity for loyalty to every trait of his master.

But yet one more word of explanation. This essay is to be primarily a study of the master personal relationship of Swinburne's life. Such a relationship does not exist in a vacuum ; and its mastery is not proved by the word. It is involved with other relationships, with other men ; and its mastery is proved by showing its control over these. We are forced, therefore, to consider some other relationships than the main one ; to show how, especially in his first period, Swinburne was led alien here and there by his feeling for his lesser heroes. But we come back to Landor ;

CHAPTER for Landorism, against all opposition, established
I. itself as his true North ; by it he was helped to mark out the course of his development. And as we see it now thwarting, now correcting, now supplementing other 'lodestars', we shall know something of its power.

CHAPTER II

PERSONALIA

I. LANDOR

OF Landor about the year 1807 Dr. Parr wrote CHAPTER II. to Southey : " He is impetuous, open-hearted, magnanimous ; largely furnished with general knowledge ; well versed in the best classical writers ; a man of original genius, as appears in his compositions both in prose and verse ; a keen hater of oppression and corruption ; and a steady friend to civil and religious liberty " (6). Landor (1775–1864) was then definitely pursuing the path of development which from very early years had seemed to await him. Hatred of oppression was born with him. As a boy he had on one occasion shocked his mother by the pious wish " that the French would invade England and assist us in hanging George the Third between two such thieves as the Archbishops of Canterbury and York " (7). Defiance of authority brought about his " removal " from Rugby—" removal " being a kindly substitution for " expulsion " which bears witness of authority's appreciation of its refractory charge. This impetuosity resulted in his rustication from Trinity, Oxford, in his nine-

CHAPTER II. teenth year, after a year's residence. Impetuosity, too, continued to be his bane to the end of his life—no more leading him to fire guns at the windows of obnoxious Tories (as had been the unhappy circumstance at college), but leading him to fire much more harmful words, Latin and Greek and English, lampoon and epigram, at the many who offended him. Impetuous patriotism led him, for instance, to such sharp use of his favourite weapon against an assailant of England—the Italian poet Monti—that subsequent events forced him from Como, where he was then staying (1818); and he retired with a fusillade of Latin verses against the Austrian Governor. Just so, some years before, he had been forced by a combination of troubles from his Welsh estate, Llanthony; and so, many years later, he was forced from England to take a last refuge in Italy. Assuredly he was not a man who could walk easily where other men walked; annoyances that many could have overlooked or avoided, he exaggerated into perpetual stumbling-blocks and opposed with continual disaster.

Yet, disasters were hardly real to him: his realities were other men's dim visions; his life is not that of quarrels and travels enforced, but of writing and thought (8). In reality it was lived on "Sunium's height" (9) in the midst of the great men and women of history—especially of classical history—whom he recorded in scores of "Imaginary Conversations." It was there that Swinburne found him.

The contrast presented by this Landor to the Landor of much of the biography is quite as

delightful as it is surprising, and it is this aspect ^{CHAPTER} II. of his genius we must take up first. The lover of liberty is chastened and made perfect by the lover of beauty ; the praiser of heroes, by the lover of children ; the life troubled with littleness, by walk and constant communion with Nature and with the world's great. It seems a pity that he ever had to descend to mundane and transient affairs. But to consider him away from them is to consider him truly—and happy. “ Think of me,” he says, speaking audibly through Anaxagoras in *Pericles and Aspasia*, “ think me happy that I am away from Athens, I who always lose my composure in the presence of crime or calamity. If any one should note to you my singularities, remembering me a year hence . . . add to them, but not aloud, a singularity of felicity, ‘ He neither lived nor died with the multitude ’ ” (10).

The idea as well as, on occasions, the practice of solitude was dear to him.

Lo ! like a god, sole and inscrutable,
He stands above our pity,

(vii. 98)

is the manner of his Count Julian. He himself also could be aloof ; but, ever quick to respond to beauty or need, to any sensuous or spiritual appeal, from the midst of the gods he would bend to bestow Olympian compassion or the most perfectly human regard of praise and pity. “ Whoever is wronged,” says his Diogenes to Plato, “ is thereby my fellow-creature, although he were never so before. Scorn, contumely, chains unite us.” And again, with a change of

CHAPTER **II.** **—** emphasis and illustrating the *de haut en bas* quality of his altruism : “ I sympathise with the brave in their adversity and afflictions, because I feel in my own breast the flame that burns in theirs : and I do not sympathise with others, because with others my heart hath nothing of consanguinity ” (11).

The occasions of his solitude were the occasions of his work : his conversing and communing with the great who peopled his world ; so that, though solitude may not have been to him in the strict religious sense what it was to his Fulke Greville, “ the audience chamber of God ” (12), it was an audience chamber of many godlike spirits. And they did not keep him waiting. This was why he liked to be alone when he walked abroad : any other companionship was then alien and intrusive. Even natural beauty—an unexpected appeal and delight of it—seems at those times to have been an impediment. The senses were alert within, and too abrupt a summons from without would disturb the clarity of the just perceptible vision ; sometimes marring it beyond power of repair. “ The wood-lark, the nightingale, and the ring-dove, have made me idle,” he says, “ for many [hours] even when I had gone into the fields to gather fresh materials for composition. . . . More than once, when I have taken out my pencil to fix an idea on paper, the smell of the cedar, held by me unconsciously against the nostrils, hath so absorbed the senses, that what I was about to write down has vanished, altogether and irrecoverably ” (13). It is obvious that human demand, either pleasurable or irritating, would

at such times have had an even more destructive CHAPTER
II. effect.

Often then, he would walk alone ; and the truly conversational and un-logical character of his imaginary conversations would allow a development of the “ few detached thoughts and images ” (14) which he confesses always to have been the beginnings of his works.

Nature, natural surroundings, were necessary in order that he might compose in this way ; but it was Nature unobtrusive, or under control. “ I seldom write *straight on end* as the hunters say (he writes to his biographer Forster), or in the house, but generally while I am walking or riding, or sitting out in the air ; sometimes in a very small pocket-book, sometimes on a scrap of paper ” (15). Preferably, it would seem, he composed while afoot—riding set his thoughts at too swift a gallop ; but walking, in the open air, in the sun, in Italy (this the acme) gave him clear perception of his women, made it possible “ to elicit their thoughts and hear their voices to advantage ” (16). Yet, on such occasions, which were frequent, “ he was so . . . absorbed in his own reflections as to be unconscious of external objects, which indeed seldom much affected him ” (17). “ He would walk about Bath, as between Florence and Fiesole, with his eyes fixed on the ground, taking no heed of the world around him.” “ In the daytime,” he supplies, as index to his mental activity at such times, “ in the daytime I laboured, and at night unburdened my mind ”—committed his thoughts to paper—“ shedding many tears ” (18).

Yet it must not be supposed that Nature was not a subtly pervasive influence in his work. If the conversation itself was arranged out of doors, and between men of receptive minds, like Sidney and Lord Brooke, it might be allowed to suggest the turn of the discourse, "foliage, herbage, pebbles," in the words given to the Arcadian, putting in motion "the finer parts of the mind" (19). One type of natural intrusion would indeed seem to have escaped even from this regulation: beauty and youth combined in the person of woman created its own law. In the conversation with Southey which furnishes so many delightful revelations of his habit and character, Landor confesses as much (20): he has rarely walked anywhere in company, except with ladies. And he gives to Southey the sly answer that no sign of disaffection for walking in company had been forthcoming, to his observation, either at Llanthony or at Como. The maker of the *Conversations*, in this regard at least, is one with the Galileo he has made. Shut up by the Jesuits for too much bravery in the firmament, that astronomer gives this revelation of himself to his visitor, Milton: "I love the fields, and the country air, and the sunny sky, and the starry; and I could keep my temper when, in the midst of my calculations, the girls brought me flowers from lonely places, and asked me their names, and puzzled me" (21).

It must be noted, too, that unaffected by external nature as he may have seemed at some times of preoccupation, when his sensibilities were withdrawn for the imperious service of the

“people of his brain,” there are frequent passages in his work that prove a passionate animal delight in its rich manifestations of colour and form and, as has been shown, sound. Without an attempt at philosophical interpretation, without

a sense sublime

Of something far more deeply interfused,

he gives as it were a rationale for the emotional experience. “I do believe that beauty, in its early innocence, has something of what, for want of a better and a more definite name, we call etherial; something pure and rapid; something that stands impassably between us and evil, and holds our little world from ruin and corruption.” It is in this sense, unconscious, incalculable, that

We are what suns and winds and waters make us.

(Regeneration, vii. 461.)

This satisfaction, however, is secondary, and though he further derives some comfort from observing the operation of natural law (22), as of increase and decay, it is the sense-delight of beauty that he first sought. “I love sweet odours,” his Aspasia writes to her friend. “Surely my Cleone herself must have breathed her very soul into these! Let me smell them again.” Her desire is as the hart’s for the water-brooks: “I want the poplars, the willows, the water-lilies, and the soft green herbage” (23). The gentle buffet and caress of “the curly wave of the warm sea” (24) was also pleasant to him; and to him, as to his Dr. Glaston (the source of most of the highest delight in *The Citation and Examination of Shakespeare*), it must have seemed

CHAPTER II. that “after a walk in Midsummer, the immersion of our hands into the cool and closing grass is surely not the least among our animal delights” (25).

These expressions of fine sensuousness are occasional; but they are so spontaneous as to be really characteristic. They represent a trait Landor holds in common with none of his early contemporaries except Keats; less, certainly, with Shelley; least with Wordsworth. His tender devotion to plants and flowers is likewise his own. Never, he says, did weak plant beaten by wind and rain want him, and he refuse aid. He was compelled to their service by mere gratitude, “for sweet scents are the vehicles of still sweeter thoughts” :

I never pluck the rose; the violet’s head
 Hath shaken with my breath upon its bank
 And not reproached me; the ever sacred cup
 Of the pure lily hath between my hands
 Felt safe, unsoiled, nor lost one grain of gold.
 (viii. 41.)

The world of course took some heed of him—in Bath, as he walked with his dearly loved Pomeranian, a twelve years’ companion celebrated in high verse on his decease :

O Urna! numquam sis tuo eruta hortulo.
 Cor intus est fidele, nam cor est canis.
 Vale, hortule, aeternumque, Pomero! vale.
 Sed, si datur, nostri memor.

(i. 472.) (26.)

The world, too, took heed of the old man, a bit tattered in apparel, whom it met often on the hills about Fiesole, “repeating to himself the masterpieces that he loved” (27); testing and

perfecting the rhythms of his splendid prose. CHAPTER II.
And of him ("il vecchio con quel bel caninò," as he was known, for another Pomero shared his Italian days) they used to say: "Tutti gl' Inglesi sono pazzi, ma questo poi!" (28).

Pazzo he indeed appeared, in its simpler sense, to others besides Italian peasants (to consider now the outward side of his nature), for he was often vehement, extravagant, lavish in praise and condemnation. "Wild irascibility" and "swift impatience" are characterisations that his biographer has to use often enough; his conversation is "dashed with will and over-positiveness." Nothing else was to be expected—from the boy who refused to take part in any competition; from the man who declared with simple and unassuming conviction, "I strove with none, for none was worth my strife"; who confidently asserted, "What I write is not written on'slate; and no finger, not of Time himself, who dips it in the cloud of years, can efface it" (29); who casually stated, "As a writer and as a man, I know my station. If I found in the world five equal to myself, I would walk out of it, not to be jostled"; who among all of great station "who have made a noise in the world . . . never saw any in whose presence (he) felt inferiority, excepting Kosciusco" (30). Such a man had to be tempestuous. *Jupiter fulgens* showed himself; *Jupiter tonans* followed—a laugh as of thunder reaching regions of sound undiscoverable by all but the Boanerges, startling poor Southey, as the two sat in the church of Sant' Abondio, so that he must often turn his head back "toward the open

CHAPTER II. door, fearing lest some pious passer-by, or some more distant one in the wood above . . . should hear the roof echo with (the) laughter" (31). With it, and after, was fair weather—idyllic. "Then not only was his talk incomparably rich and full, it was delivered with such a courtly charm of manner and address, such a rotundity, mellowness, and old-world grace of utterance as were irresistible. His voice, especially in reading aloud, was as sympathetic as it was powerful ; . . . deep, rich, and like the noblest music" (32).

His outbreaks must have been occasioned largely by political or social oppressions, for, as he says, in the presence of crime he always lost his composure ; and such crimes abounded during the ninety years of his life. His combinations upon Napoleon III. are examples, or his denunciation of the government under which English asylum was denied Kossuth, or English aid withheld from struggling Italy. Readers of such dialogues as those between Leo XII. and his valet, Don Victor Saez and El Rey Netto, will not find it hard to imagine similar vituperation expressed in less formal speech. But he was violent about other matters than those concerning the Holy Alliance or the degenerate litter of Bourbon or other kings to whose villainy or incompetence he attributed the ills of the time of these two dialogues (1822–1828), and of others as well. A paltry personal offender at Fiesole was "so vile a sycophant that even the blast of Michael's trumpet could not rouse his abject soul" ; the mensurable carelessness of a publisher he fancied such an unparalleled enormity that

he burned his uncompleted fourth volume because ^{CHAPTER} II. of it, solemnly warning his children not to pursue the literary career ; the illness of his children, reported to him on a journey, threw him into such a fit of anxiety that he hesitated between drowning himself and going back ; a black-edged letter from Rose Paynter (niece of the Rose Aylmer of his boyhood romance whom he has immortalised in the most consummately perfect, being the most perfectly compressed, elegy in the language) (33), put him in a terror unequalled out of Bedlam : " You know how suddenly the most irrational thoughts seize upon me, and how I live and have my being among impracticable and impossible things. . . . It is true, a moment was quite sufficient to assure me that the writer was alive when it was written ; yet what a chaos was generated during that moment, in my uncalculating and unreflecting head " (34).

Yet even here is genius. These very errancies, considered apart from his intellectuality, have greatness ; and a conception of him based upon them alone is strangely appealing. Such a partial portrait of him is given by Dickens in the person of Mr. Boythorn in *Bleak House*, revealing for instant admiration the essential heroic generosity of his spirit—" the inside of the man, the warm heart of the man, the passion of the man, the fresh blood of the man." He is " always in extremes, perpetually in the superlative degree." He had knocked out the teeth of Mr. Jarndyce's oppressor when Mr. Jarndyce was a low boy at school. " He was then the most impetuous boy in the world " (his expectant host announces),

CHAPTER
II.

“ and he is now the most impetuous man. He was then the loudest boy in the world, and he is now the loudest man. He was then the heartiest and sturdiest boy in the world, and he is now the heartiest and sturdiest man. He is a tremendous fellow ” (35).

Mr. Boythorn is expected for dinner, and an hour after the time he bursts in, protesting that he had been maliciously misdirected by the most intolerable scoundrel on the face of the earth ; declaring that, had Mr. Jarndyce been married, he would have banished himself to the remotest summit of the Himalaya Mountains rather than present himself at this unreasonable hour. But he is appeased in a flash, and the thunder of his laugh stirs the neighbourhood. A little later he is led to express himself on the Court of Chancery ; this too in the midst of the tenderest ministrations to a little canary, “ the most astonishing bird in Europe,” which perches serenely on his forehead while he consigns Chancery, from its son the accountant-general to its father the devil, to be blown to atoms with ten thousand hundred-weight of gunpowder.

This same impetuous generosity is manifest in the management of his own person. In 1808, for instance, at a moment’s notice he took himself off to Spain, then in the midst of opposition to the encroachments of Napoleon—raised a volunteer troop, contributed 10,000 reals for the relief of burnt Venturada, quarrelled with the English envoy, and returned to England, by way of campaigning having served three launches with powder and muskets, and shouldered a

child too heavy for its distressed mother for some ^{CHAPTER} II. five or six miles ! But this much he brought back — the conception of his titanic drama of perverted patriotism, *Count Julian*, and such lovely and imperishable pictures as those of

the secluded scenes where Ebro springs
And drives not from his fount the fallen leaf,
So motionless and tranquil its repose.

(vii. 61.)

More than ten years later he was wishing he had another thousand pounds to spare that he might offer it to the revolting Neapolitans. The profits of his first book were to be devoted to supplying the needs of a distressed clergyman ; of his Latin poems, to aiding the poor of Leipzig ; of an Imaginary Conversation between Savonarola and the Prior of Florence, to bring relief to Garibaldi's wounded. The profits were imaginary—like the conversations ; but one unsucess was long forgotten before another arrived. His last years in England (1836–1857) displayed his keen sympathy with the social reforms of Lord Shaftesbury ; the Hungarian war in 1848–49 roused him (as did the Polish struggle) to fever heat, and he and Lord Nugent “ took unwearying delight in rendering service to such of the leaders of that gallant people as were in England after the struggle ” (36). His return to Italy (where the Savonarola conversation was written) saw him seeking to assist the release from Austrian bondage in yet other ways, even to the extremity of trying to pawn his watch for the benefit of Garibaldi's followers. His last volumes are a series of trumpet calls stirring the *Risorgimento*

CHAPTER II. in its later movements, both against Austrian and against Papal tyranny. Socially, he was a leader in the movement of Romantic Humanitarianism ; politically he was a life-long assaulter of the *ancien régime*.

It is hardly necessary to speak again of his love for his children—of his love for children in general. The fervent anxiety displayed on the occasion of their illness is ample evidence ; even in its perfervid unreasonableness, it is not unusual. “ This is the first time I ever was a whole day without seeing Arnold,” he wrote in 1821 of his three-year-old son ; “ he is of all living creatures the most engaging. . . . What a pity it is that such divine creatures should ever be men and subject to regrets and sorrows ! ” (37). He conceived childhood, as he conceived many aspects of life, emotionally ; and if he reflects upon it, it is a reflection that takes account chiefly of the increase or decrease of the qualities that, to one mood, make it dear. Parenthood, or the affection of children (the conversation is between Walker and Hattaji, but the thoughts are not far away from Landor), “ opens to thee in the deserts of life the two most exuberant and refreshing sources of earthly happiness, love and piety ” (38). And again : “ In every child there are many children ; but coming forth year after year, each somewhat like and somewhat varying. When they are grown much older, the leaves (as it were) lose their pellucid green, the branches their graceful pliancy ” (39). But he dwells upon the pliancy, and pays tribute to the green : Artemidora, mild and bashful, like a white

blossom on a river ; Guidone and Lucia with ^{CHAPTER} II. their simple loves ; Tersitza prattling grave beauties to Trelawny, on the relation between the good and the gracious, the exceeding whiteness of those great water-birds, and how they “look at it upon them . . . as if it solaced and supported and refreshed them” (40) ; Cesaron, boyishly and imperially fronting the files of Octavius while Agrippa looks on and cries “Well done” at the crash of grounding arms that salute the child. It passes, but it is great ; it is a dream, but “without such dreams,” as Landor’s Boccaccio says to his Fiametta, “dull would be the sleep called life” (41).

As a critic Landor gives important evidence of his traits of character and features of training ; in particular of a comprehensive and thorough classicism, and of Boythorn impetuosity of judgment. The reviver of some five hundred characters, the greater part of them men and women who had “made a noise in the world,” he lived on intimate terms with heroes of Greek and Roman thought and culture. Homer and Laertes live again in his pages ; Solon and Peisistratus, Pericles and Sophocles, Plato, Epicurus, Diogenes, soldiers and statesmen, orators and poets, tyrants, priests, kings, of all times and places. It is hard for him to forget these on any occasion, and he often makes no effort whatever to do so. Too ready a reference to them as standards of measurement is indeed one of his dangers. It is not particularly valuable to know, for instance, that no two minds were ever more dissimilar than Shakespeare’s and Plato’s, that Milton is as

CHAPTER II. eloquent as Demosthenes, or that “there are a few passages in Lucretius, a few in Catullus, and very many in Vergil which it is delightful to read and repeat ; but our heroic measure is fuller and more varied.” More needs to be shown in order that the judgment may pass beyond the currency of mere comment and become serviceable criticism. High comment it undoubtedly is, of an emotional kind ; and delivered in the heat of conversation to whose general value it was merely contributory, it must have been temporarily effective. It demonstrates himself, certainly, even where it fails to be convincing as judgment ; and often it does not fail.

The second general type of his criticism is sectional comment : he runs through a work and discusses line by line, or period by period, praising here, condemning and rejecting there. Such comment is often extremely stimulating ; it furnishes out and completes the other class of his criticism where that coexists ; it appraises so surely the details that it prepares judgment on the whole where that does not exist. But its range is limited to consideration of technical merits, felicities of movement and language, or the reverse—a very restricted range when it leads to condemnation of a good part of Milton (42) and to the decision that “at least sixteen parts in twenty of the *Inferno* and *Purgatorio* are detestable, both in poetry and principle” ; though he (or Petrarca who speaks for him) goes on to say that “the higher parts are excellent indeed” (43).

It must also be noted, however, that even in

his analytic criticism little time is given to assailing defects in literature, much energy to praising merits. Without any such limitation as is imposed by the doctrine that the function of criticism is to praise, in this service he discovers its most gracious use. Stricture upon faults is a duty. "No criticism is less beneficial to an author or his reader than one tagged with favour and tricked with courtesy" (44). "To be useful to as many as possible is the especial duty of a critic, and his utility can only be attained by rectitude and precision" (45). But, "whenever a man capable of performing great and glorious actions is emerging from obscurity, it is our duty to remove, if we can, all obstruction from before him; to increase his scope and powers, to extol and amplify his virtues" (46).

His four magic poets are Homer, Dante (despite the manifold fault), Shakespeare, and Milton—poets of sublime imagination and of exquisite though diverse harmony, possessed of what he calls the four requisites to constitute "might, majesty, and dominion in a poet: these are creativeness, constructiveness, the sublime, the pathetic" (47). Dante he does not seem to have *personally* affected—the mediaevalism is alien to him; it may be that the bitterness is not alien to art. For Shakespeare, glory! especially for the tragedies (and of them *Othello* and *Macbeth* first) and the histories; the comedies being allowed inferior; the sonnets mediocre. "Glory to thee in the highest, thou confidant of our Creator! who alone hast taught us in every part of the mind how wonderfully and fearfully we

CHAPTER are made" (48). More temperately, in the
II. magnificent tribute to Browning,

There is delight in singing, tho' none hear
 Beside the singer; and there is delight
 In praising, tho' the praiser sit alone
 And see the prais'd far off him, far above.
 Shakespeare is not our poet, but the world's,
 Therefore on him no speech! and brief for thee,
 Browning! since Chaucer was alive and hale
 No man hath walk't along our roads with step
 So active, so inquiring eye, or tongue
 So varied in discourse.

(viii. 152.)

Spenser he found it delightful to read in; tedious to read through, allegory being a low form of poetry, and Spenser somewhat prodigal of it. Ben Jonson he read for the purity of his English. But most of the Elizabethans he held to be "mushroom growths beneath the oak of Arden." Southey, his life-long friend, he over-estimated; Keats and Scott he described as our Ariel and Prospero: "and yet this wonderful creature Keats, who in his felicities of expression comes very often near to Shakespeare, has defects which his admirers do not seem to understand" (49). "His style is opulent, sometimes it becomes disorderly." Byron is the subject of a number of comments, before and after Missolonghi, which had a marked effect upon Landor's attitude; the sum or average of them is:

Byron is not all Byron: one small part
 Bore the resemblance of a human heart.

"He possesses the soul of poetry, energy; but lacks ideal beauty" (50). Wordsworth is not to be ranked with Scott, Burns, and Cowper; he is

inferior to Southey. But in one poem, *Laodamia*, ^{CHAPTER} II. Landor's Southey allows that Sophocles and Euripides could have done no better.

Milton—it was Milton that first withdrew Landor from his preoccupation with the Greeks. It was Milton the high republican that retained him, the exalted singer, the defender of domestic, civil, political, and religious liberty, and the voice as clear as that from the throats of the uplifted angel trumpets. “I had read the *Iliad* twice over before I had well studied *Paradise Lost*. Then the hexameter, even Homer's, fell upon my ear as a ring of fine bells after a full organ” (51); sounded “tinkling when I had recited aloud in my solitary walks on the seashore the haughty appeal of Satan, and the deep penitence of Eve” (52). The march and music of Milton obsessed him; there was no more of books for him that day whenever he opened the *Paradise Lost*; his ear refused to entertain any lower melody—and all else was below. He apostrophises Milton in the chapters on Popery, written in the midst of the controversy before the passage of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill (1851), enlisting against the new “aggression” that voice which, “more potent or more pervading than any human voice before or since, inspired by those heavenly powers with whom we may believe he now exists in complete union, warned nations against . . . Popery” (53). It is a tribute also to his genius to note that he was unaffected by the eighteenth-century fictions that made Milton a Red Revolutionist, and Satan the hero of his Epic. He had not stopped short at the

CHAPTER II. end of the second book of *Paradise Lost* ; and his aristocratic republicanism found support throughout, as well as in Milton's prose, and a kinship with the great aristocrat of the people whose principle certainly was no rude levelling, but a strict accounting of capacity for service, so that even fallen Satan is mindful enough of the laws of an ideal commonwealth (not necessarily the state from which he had taken his departure) to recall that

orders and degrees
Jar not with liberty, but well consist.

Among Greek writers, Landor singles out Aeschylus for his most assured and complete devotion—the Aeschylus of *Prometheus*, and the titan revolt and brave agony beneath “ the lord and oppressor of mankind ”—to use Swinburne's phrase. Pindar is a sharer of some such respect, but to a lowlier degree. Aeschylus has enough of materials to supply a troop of rivals like Euripides, and a squadron like Sophocles : in him is “ the loud clear challenge, the firm unstealthy step, of an erect, broad-breasted soldier ” (54). Elsewhere the condemnation of Euripides is even heavier—he is more moralist than dramatist, and has more preachment than poetry (55). He debases Greek myth, and “ a hero, penned up and purgatorised in this middle state, is fitted to become a *monseigneur bien poudré* among the mesdames and waiting-maids and patch-boxes of Racine ” (56). Sappho excites the sympathies less even than Sophocles and Euripides ; Plato is a fop and a poseur ; Aristophanes is unrivalled as a comedian. But always Landor returns to

his favourites. Constantly professing himself CHAPTER II. careless of public approval, and yet sure of fame, he did not place himself near the four supreme. Perhaps he realised that popular regard is sometimes the guarantee of the greatest poets, who represent, by the very fact of their greatness, a large portion of humanity. And he knew that his own genius was out of sympathy with popular thought and ordinary human need.

So it is not with the highest that he allies himself, not with Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, and Milton. It is Pindar and Aeschylus who, at the end, will take him between them, and Milton (forsaking the greatest) who will say, "Commonwealth's man, we meet at last" (57).

II. SWINBURNE

Balliol College had its poet even in Landor's day. Sixty years after Landor went down from Trinity, Balliol again had honour of the laurel—this time worn by no Southey. Times no longer made it necessary or possible to flaunt one's republicanism by means of flowing locks, when the rest of the world wore wigs; or by unpowdered hair, when the rest of the world was barbered and powdered. It is uncertain whether even a "Necessity of Atheism" would have been judged an unpardonable offence—though as late as 1864 it was still possible to deprive a Jowett of his salary because of religious heterodoxy. Yet there must have remained some mild ways of raising a standard of revolt. And, if we are to believe the rumour of old stories, such ways as

CHAPTER there were this poet used. He was Algernon
II. Charles Swinburne.

Here is no place to give a full account of his life. It was comparatively uneventful, and is well enough known. But certain occasional notes may indicate something of his fine sensuousness, and his aristocracy, republicanism, love of liberty and love of literature—traits and interests that fitted and proved him to be Landor's disciple.

The son of Admiral Charles Henry Swinburne and his wife, Lady Jane Henrietta, daughter of the third Earl of Ashburnham, he was born in April 1838, and died in his birth month in 1909. His father's family was an old one, and numbered among its traditions that of a loyalty to the Stuarts which had led them, Swinburne says, to pour out "their blood like water and their lands like dust" for that house. He himself preserved the tradition to the best of his ability. Mary Stuart was one of his idols. And even Charles Edward had his allegiance—though for a strange reason. In this connection devotion to the Stuarts and devotion to the ideal of a Republic made common cause in Swinburne, and he would have welcomed a second Restoration because the proclamation of a Commonwealth in England would certainly have followed it within thirty years. We could not have stood their rule for longer than that, and they would have been set packing again, a third time, for good and all, and the monarchal scheme with them! So he argued it to Louis le Blanc in 1882, and confirmed that good Republican in as desirable a Jacobitism (58). His grandfather, Sir John, a grand old man

whom he acclaims in a letter to Stedman, must have been a brilliant example of ultra-liberalism to the grandson who, as child, youth, and boy, "enjoyed his affectionate regard." Sir John had been brought up in France, where in the age of Voltaire he was a personal friend of Mirabeau. Called to England on the falling in of the family estates, he threw himself into political life, as one of the most extreme politicians of the time. "He used to tell us," Swinburne goes on, "that he and Lord Grey had by the law of the land repeatedly made themselves liable to be impeached and executed for high treason, and certainly I have read a speech of his on the Prince of Wales, which, if delivered with reference to the present bearer of that title, would considerably astonish the existing House of Commons" (59). At all events, wide liberalism was part of Swinburne's heritage; and when he went up to Oxford, admiration for Kossuth and Kosciusco, love of Mazzini and Hugo, and hatred of Napoleon seem to have gone with him.

Apparently he was as successful with one of these as with the other in shocking some at least of his contemporaries. It is said, for example, that he used to go through a ritual of devotion, held to be blasphemous by the unco guid, before the portrait of Mazzini which hung conspicuously in his rooms. With equal temerity he poured out the vials of his wrath upon Napoleon "the little," or upon the clerical upholders of the French Empire. Some of these explosions found place among his contributions to Undergraduate Papers, and one took the form of a speech, to

CHAPTER II. which we must again refer, occasioned by Orsini's attempt to assassinate Louis Napoleon, and described as "literally a shriek" on the Virtue of Tyrannicide (60).

Not at all strangely, Swinburne's first poems of importance gave comparatively little evidence of his innate humanitarianism. The fusion of moral ideas with the first spontaneous poetic rapture must always be a process more or less slow, according to the fervour of the emotion and the abundance of material on which it feeds. In this case the emotional food was plentiful. The first volume contained two dramatic poems, *The Queen Mother* and *Rosamond*; it was issued soon after he went down from Oxford in 1861, and received little or no notice. Several years of maturation followed, during which he wrote some of the *Poems and Ballads* that so dismayed the guardians of public morals in 1866, and the two diverse dramas, *Chastelard*, the first in order of execution though the second in order of publication, and *Atalanta in Calydon*, whose melodies took the world by storm in 1865. Swinburne attained glory at a stride. Certain vague Bohemian years followed, through which the bibliography of his writings is, even now when Mr. Gosse's *Life* has appeared, the only sure guide; and the writings themselves as they record the development or change of his ideas. For the years 1868-1880, the most important in his life, and extending a little before and a little after that date, the *Life* or Mr. Gosse's *Personal Recollections* give the readiest information (61). The earlier years are largely formative, and the

later, devoted with strict loyalty to the chosen ^{CHAPTER} _{II.} dual career of critic-poet, are observable through the open window of his published work.

Mr. Gosse records that the extraordinary reputation of Swinburne in the later 'sixties took especial account of his riot of revolutionary opinions. He was among the first of that band (whose degeneracy still carps about us) who set themselves against certain conventions and confinements of mid-Victorian aesthetics. Swinburne had some right to complain: any artist has a right to complain and revolt against traditions that hamper the production of work that he believes good. It was necessary to wake people up. "Il faut rudoyer le genre humain," in Hugo's phrase. And Swinburne, against "this ghastly thin-faced time of ours," set himself to do it.

It appears that he was different from other men: "he formed," as Cowley said of Pindar (Landor's Pindar!), "a vast species alone"—a great nervous and mental energy in a little frame, an almost immaterial body. Not powerless though—for did he not climb Culver Cliff, on the southern shore of Wight, unscaled before or since? That was in his seventeenth year; and he tells the story in a letter (quoted at length by his relative Mrs. Disney Leith (62) in her fascinating article on his boyhood). His ambition then was to be a soldier—the only ambition that ever clouded or displaced the supreme desire to be a poet; and it was rigorously dispelled by his father. So, desperate, longing to do something, he climbed Culver, at the risk of his life certainly, coming out in

CHAPTER II. a hollow of the rock amid clouds of startled sea-gulls, his brothers—for he was nicknamed “Sea-gull” then—and up beyond, where he fainted. He rode too, and no one has so captured the thrilling ardour of clean hard wind, the ripple and rapture of swift animal flight, as he. Other poets, of course, have tried, but the apparatus of a ride from somewhere to somewhere, or the “hey for boot and spur, lad,” of lyric or pseudo-balladry are hardly of the order to be mentioned in distant procession even from his pure ecstasy. It must have been, in part, her daring and her horsemanship that captured his love for the jewel-bright Queen of Scots—that wild spurred ride of hers (for instance) from Jedburgh through twenty miles of seething border country to Hermitage Castle where her lover and future husband, Bothwell, lay wounded.

It is through Mary, in *Chastelard*, that he speaks best of horses—and fittingly, for his own riding was richly in the North, within sight or sense of her moors, where one looks

Out past the long firths to the cold, keen sea.

The delight of it all seems his as well as hers when she describes a battle :

yea, I saw the king's face helmed
Red in the hot lit foreground of some fight,
Hold the whole war as it were by the bit, a horse
Fit for his knees' grip—the great rearing war
That frothed with lips flung up and shook men's lives
Off either flank of it like snow.

(*Chastelard*, ii. 1.)

He swam, and no poet has so caught the ecstasy of body commingled with assisting or

opposing waves. Tristram's swimming is now almost as well known as the parados of *Atalanta*, "Off Shore" as "Ex Voto," and his sea-change and delight in all manifold moods and changes of his spirit's "mother" as is the name of Swinburne itself. His equally fervent delight in other aspects of nature is not quite so much impressed: there is less of it. But its place is important in his work: it is the beautiful and necessary element, serving as foil or background to the studies of passion that characterised his early poetry, and, as in "A Nympholept," or "A Vision of Spring in Winter," is one of the delights among the poems of his maturity.

From the midst of the burning air of Mount Horsel, for instance, in the early and celebrated "Laus Veneris," the cry goes up for the wind and cool grass: he "babbles of green fields."

Yet would to God this flesh of mine might be
 Where air might wash and long leaves cover me;
 Where tides of grass break into foam of flowers,
 And where the wind's feet shine along the sea.

The situation is changed, and the mood, in *Atalanta*: yet there is the same desire, in the marvellous antiphonal over the almost lifeless body of Meleager, where the hero himself yearns for the scenes of his voyaging, sight and sense once more of seas irremovable, until the prow of the *Argo* broke through them.

Would God you would hurry me
 Forth from all these:
 Heap sand and bury me
 By the Chersonese
 Where the thundering Bosphorus answers the thunder of
 Pontic seas.

CHAPTER
II.

Swinburne himself may have had moments for such thoughts as the first of these ; and surely had, as “ *Ex Voto* ” proves, such thoughts as the second. Of the dim Bohemian period after Oxford this much is sure : it saw a contest between a restricted and, to his temperament, debilitating, artistic influence, and the wide genial influence of unrestricted nature and open life. It was the pre-Raphaelite studio opposed by the sea. Rossetti led to the one, Watts-Dunton and Landor’s example to the other. In the end Swinburne left London and gave himself almost entirely (except, of course, for his constant interest in affairs) to the larger and better existence.

But in London, to return to Mr. Gosse’s article, “ in the streets, he had the movements of a somnambulist ; and often I have seen him passing like a ghost across the traffic of Holborn, or threading the pressure of carts eastward in Gray’s Inn Road, without glancing to the left or to the right, like something blown before a wind ”—“ *Wind* ” from “ the golden remote wild west,” we are tempted to interject, remembering “ *Hesperia* ” : for surely, though not matching current criticism to the lips of Alcibiades or Lucian, he was dreeing his own weird in his own way, with Félide, or Dolores, or Faustine, as the hard weary feature of some face casually seen recalled the image of the ancient Empress on the Roman coin (though these were of a period before Mr. Gosse knew him), or with the goddess of Liberty, dispelling those dreams, before whom he came to do such supreme oblation. In later

years, from 1878 to the end, he was certainly abroad with the creatures of his mind, his characters or his metres, in those daily walks of his that ran through thirty years, rain or shine (unless he was at the sea), along Putney Heath and Wimbledon Common. On them, it is said, he would think out his poems to the last line, leaving nothing more to do than pour them out on paper at his return. Meredith styled him an improvisatore, or as nearly so as our unpliant English would permit; and from the sound and speed of his poems many were "autochthonous," sprung from the soil. Some came to him as he played "mental traveller" in his college days, dreaming in class time, as he says in the Dedication to *Poems and Ballads*, or as he skirted the Northumbrian shore in vacation time at Capheaton, or the cliffs near Bonchurch in the Isle of Wight; traced Tristram to Tintagel, or wandered with Watts-Dunton on the shores of Guernsey and Sark.

Landor also, as we have seen, composed out of doors. Verse, however, was his avocation, he says, prose his serious study. Yet one little piece in Italian, which was easier for him than English, is headed "Composed in a Walk to Weston." He also had experiences and travel of the mind :

I love to wander both in deed and thought
Where little rills their earliest tunes are taught.

Swinburne merely exceeded him in both of these experiences.

He was of a very different order of construction from Landor; nevertheless certain phases of

CHAPTER II. the conduct of the two are astonishingly alike.

“ The slightest emotional excitement, of anger, or pleasure, or admiration, sent him into a state which could scarcely be called anything but convulsive. . . . It gradually subsided into a graceful smiling calm. . . . Swinburne seemed to me to divide his hours between violent intellectual excitement and sheer immobility, mental and physical. He would sit for a long time together without stirring a limb, his eyes fixed in a sort of trance, and only his lips shifting and shivering a little, without a sound ” (63). Perhaps his mind was more active than it seemed.

With this compare Sir Sidney Colvin on Landor : “ His mode of writing was peculiar ; he would sit absorbed in apparently vacant thought, but inwardly giving the finishing touches to the verses or the periods which he had last been maturing while he walked or lay awake at night ; when he was ready, he would seize suddenly on one of the many scraps of paper and one of the many stumps of swan’s-quill that usually lay at hand, and would write down what was in his head hastily ” (64). Anger or admiration moved him from his classic calm—and very slight occasions might arouse his anger. Fierce denunciation and boisterous indictment would ensue, followed quickly by the thunder of his laugh.

These resemblances, real or fancied, may seem too general to be worth record, and as common enough among emotional people in general ; yet it happens that there is proof of the connection they imply between the two men. Mr. Gosse supplies the details :

Swinburne's pleasure in fighting was a very marked ^{CHAPTER} and a very amusing trait in his conversation. He liked, ^{II.} at brief intervals, to have something to worry between the teeth of his discourse. He would allow himself to be drawn off the scent by any red-herring of criticism. *This mock irascibility as of a miniature Boythorn always struck me as having been deliberately modelled on the behaviour of Walter Savage Landor.* This impression was confirmed in rather a startling way by a phrase of Swinburne's own. He had been reading to me the MS. of his *George Chapman*, and after the reading was over and we had passed to other things, Swinburne said : " Did you notice just now some pages of a rather Landorian character ? Don't you think I was rather like the old lion, when he was using his teeth and claws, in my rending of the stage licensers and our crazy English censorial system ? "

At another time Swinburne spoke of what a thorn in the flesh it was to him " to reflect that probably he had never written, nor should ever write, one single page that Landor would have deigned to sign."

And here the only possible inference is that he set his own exuberant prose to learn of the better-governed, heavier-footed march of Landor's style : if so, the result was not happy (65).

The stimulating effect of his conversation, even when he was heaping denunciation upon the heads of poetasters and critiques, rose direct from his intense feeling about literature, his " unflagging sense of the superhuman power and value of poetry." It hardly needs a reminiscence of his conversation to show this, for no reader of *Atalanta in Calydon* can have failed to heed the expression of the feeling that finds place there.

CHAPTER II. Negatively, on the *evil* of speech, in the fourth chorus, the idea is innately Greek :

(Swelling words of high-flown might
Mightily the gods do smite.)

(Soph. *Antig.*)

But positively, as expressed in the second Episode, it is not so much Greek as a reflection by later times upon Greek custom (as exemplified by Tyrtaeus for example). Most especially it is Landorian—as must be shown later—to say as Althea says here :

Speech too bears fruit, being worthy ; and air blows down
Things poisonous, and high-seated violences,
And with charmed words and songs have men put out
Wild evil, and the fire of tyrannies.

Examples in abundance of the first idea, the evil of speech, might be quoted from Euripides—and were doubtless suggested by him. But it is interesting to note that Euripides suffered at Swinburne's hands precisely as he had suffered at Landor's. Mr. Gosse writes : “ I never clearly understood the reason of Swinburne's fanatical objection to Euripides, which has even puzzled Dr. Verrall.” The *Athenaeum* description of *Erechtheus* as a “ translation of Euripides ” infuriated him, and he poured out his indignation upon the purblind critic : “ Translation from Euripides indeed ! Why, a fourth form boy could perceive that, as far as *Erechtheus* can be said to be formed after anybody, it is modelled throughout on the earlier style of Aeschylus, the simple three-parts epic style of ‘ The Suppliants,’ ‘ The Persians,’ and the ‘ Seven against Thebes,’ the style most radically contrary to the ‘ droppings,’ ”

grrh ! the *droppings* (as our divine and dearest CHAPTER
II. Mrs. Browning so aptly rather than delicately puts it) of the scenic sophist that can be conceived.” And, at another time : “ I always have maintained, and always shall maintain, that it is infinitely easier to over-top Euripides by the head and shoulders than to come up to the waist of Sophocles or stretch up to touch the lance of Aeschylus.” Many poets, of course, have spontaneously scorned Euripides ; but this, in its very accent, is patently Landorism (see p. 30).

During the year 1875, Swinburne’s mind was bent on translating Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Villon, “ all his peculiar foreign favourites.” Some of this work was done ; ten translations from Villon appear in the second series of *Poems and Ballads*, 1878 ; but the rescript of Aristophanes was limited to the *Grand Chorus of Birds*, attempted in English after the original metre ; and Aeschylus seems never to have been attempted at all. Of his other favourites there is place or need for no more than a word : Shakespeare stands pre-eminent ; and though there are various groupings, planets that rule their particular mood, the fixed and enduring stars of his literary firmament were, besides Shakespeare and Aeschylus, Sappho, Marlowe, and Shelley. It is the words of Sappho, “ the supreme head of song,” that he “ heard and recognised in the notes of the nightingales ” ; the “ glory of the presence ” of Marlowe and Shelley that he “ imagined in the presence of the glory of the sky, the lustre of their advent and their passage,” that he “ felt visible as in vision on the live and limpid floorwork of the cloudless

CHAPTER II. and sunset coloured sea." " Marlowe and Shakespeare, Aeschylus and Sappho, do not for us live only on the dusty shelves of libraries" (66).

He thought Dickens "the greatest Englishman of the generation," finding in him as keen and complete a delight as did Landor: in Scott also. His essay on Blake (superseded it is said by later criticism) is the most fragrant of his tributes, as well as the most restrained: "a more noble memory is hardly left us" is his nearest approach to Landor's exclamation at first discovery that "Blake is the greatest of poets." He can speak no more highly of Chaucer and Milton than Landor does; but completely disregards Landor's opinion on the lesser Elizabethans. He confesses himself willing to share Landor's prejudice, "if it be prejudice," against Plato, and sympathises with his dislike of Dante's mediaevalism: there are tones in the "voice of ten silent centuries" that he does not care to hear; he snaps his fingers at the ovens and cesspools of Maleboge—at least he says the soul would do so, if the soul has fingers (67).

His critical work is strongly marked, nearly all of it, by his temperament; and he is a great critic because he was greatly temperamented, succeeding by force of genius in a school that counts its ephemera by the thousand. He has the defects of an impressionist as well as those of a turbulent stylist. Chief of these is his desire to suggest the atmosphere of what he is reviewing, rather than to describe its form or content. This leads him to a too lavish use of reference. In his early essay on Morris's *Jason*, for instance, he

finds the pictures "sweet and lucid, as early ^{CHAPTER} _{II.} Italian work"; but, not content to rest with an emotion in the bud, he must display his connoisseurship: "There are crowds and processions, battle-pieces and merry-makings, worthy of Benozzo or Carpaccio; single figures or groups of lovers in flowery waterland worthy of Sandro or Fillippo. The sea-pieces are like the younger Lippi's" (68). (And here we cannot but notice the flowering of the affection for the earlier Florentine and Venetian painters planted long before by an erratic but sometimes fortunate art lover whose name was Landor (69).) Touching the sea in the same paragraph he is set avoyaging between Homer and Chaucer, Aeschylus and Shakespeare. Later (1891), finding himself in company with certain poets of the Restoration, he has occasion to describe something as "that famous effusion of pessimistic lechery which gives us in metrical form the moral quintessence of Calvin and Bacchus, of Priapus and Carlyle" (70). In the same essay (a review of Mr. Locker-Lampson's *Anthology of Social Verse*) he finds the crowning merit of the book under discussion to be "the fair if not yet quite adequate prominence given now for the first time to the name of the great man whose lightest and slightest claim to immortality is his indisputable supremacy over all possible competitors as a writer of social or occasional verse more bright, more graceful, more true in tone, more tender in expression, more deep in suggestion, more delicate in touch, than any possible Greek or Latin or French or English rival's. Meleager no less than Voltaire, and

CHAPTER II. Prior no less than Catullus, must on this ground give place to Landor" (71).

To note this extravagance (not of praise—for no lover of Landor will wish to take much from it), this recklessness of manner, is but to call attention to the drifting into professional criticism of a wide-ranging, tempestuous conversational style: in its place justified, for it could there be met and forced to deliver value of its voyaging; a style, not unlike what we are led to suppose was that of the poet-critic who is the recipient of this vast praise. But having called attention to this fundamental eccentricity, it is sufficient to say of his ability as a critic that he possesses absolute technical knowledge in the wide field of his criticism, and that, despite violences and extremes of emotion which lead to barren adulation, or pyrotechnic abuse, he is gifted as no other English critic is gifted with the power of emotional exegesis. Wave after wave is lifted from the sea of literature to be glorified by his luminous intelligence, and crest after crest expands and dissolves into iridescence and gleaming spray beneath the wind of his rapture.

With one more mood of Landor's he is in special sympathy—his love of children. It was no unusual trait in Landor certainly: yet it was one to which Swinburne could not but pay tribute in his range of literature from Homer to Hugo, and notice of children from Astyanax to Mamillius and from "the litel clergeon" (whom he must have mentioned somewhere) to Gavroche and Cosette.

Swinburne's published work is perfect witness

of the manifold perfection of this mood—a mood of moral as well as aesthetic loveliness. Without it (and without his faith in Liberty) there would be slight defence against the early criticism that he had not, what every poet must have to be worthy the name, faith: not religious faith necessarily, but “a principle underlying life and action, whether it be belief in duty, or liberty, or virtue.” This is a faith in life; a nursling faith it might seem, considering *Poems and Ballads*, *Chastelard*, and *Atalanta*, and oppressed by promise of evil and assurance of sorrow, yet bright and positive and not to be obscured by no matter how thick clouds of surrounding darkness. In this early period Lust says “I am Love” often, and love, even when cleansed of lust by its own fire, is largely a bodily appetite, like hunger or thirst, and so subject to regret and satiety. But the love between mother and child is above all this unrest. The chorus in *Atalanta* addresses Althea, who is overwhelmed by conviction of Fate:

This thing moves more than all things, even thy son
That thou cleave to him,

a creed expressed more beautifully but not more explicitly fifteen years later, in “By the North Sea”:

Love more strong than death or all things fated
Child’s and mother’s, lit by love and led.

The Fates waited upon Meleager’s birth, and he,

then but a span long moaned
With inarticulate mouth inseparate words

but those grey women with bound hair
Who fright the gods frightened not him; he laughed

CHAPTER
II.

Seeing them, and pushed out hands to feel and haul
Distaff and thread, intangible.

And so this nursling faith, beset by death and derision, thrusts out at them, but not ineffectually. Althea's love is more memorable than her madness ; the burning of the brand and the arraignment of the gods and fate is less moving, less potent than the memory of her

flower of three suns old,
The small one thing that lying drew down my life
To lie with thee and feed thee ; a child and weak,
Mine, a delight to no man, sweet to me.

.
But fair for me thou wert, O little life,
Fruitless, the fruit of mine own flesh, and blind,
More than much gold, ungrown, a foolish flower.
For silver nor bright snow nor feather of foam
Was whiter, and no gold yellerow than thine hair,
O child, my child. . . .

A number of years were to elapse before Swinburne returned to this theme. Critical writing, eager interest in the progress of affairs in France and Italy, the advancement of the Mary Stuart trilogy—these occupied him. But in 1876, with the “Birth Song” he may be said to have returned to it—devotedly, as is shown by the many poems on children that from that time on find place in his work. Of these the richest collections, endowed with “The Salt of the Earth,” “A Child's Pity,” “A Child's Laughter,” are *Tristram of Lyonesse and other Poems* (1882) and *A Century of Roundels*, where the grace and charm of the sentiment finds its counterpart in that of the verse form itself.

This devotion to children, and his equal

reverence for persons at the other extremity of life, are closely related to his sympathy for all suffering and his indignation against all oppression. Landor's counterpart of this has been shown in so far as it relates to popular revolutionary movements. But Landor was as sympathetic with private and individual need. Like Shelley at Marlow—though not with the fulness of that ministry—he gave away a large part of his income for relief of the poor. During his last years in England, he seldom left Bath for London, giving various excuses, and finally this last, that he often thought at night of what he had been seeing in the morning, "poor mothers, half-starved children, and girls habitually called unfortunate by people who drop the word as lightly as if it had no meaning in it. Little do they think that they are speaking of the fallen angels. . . . So many heart-aches always leave me one" (72). And here the difference between seventy-eight years and thirty-three rather than between mid-Victorianism and a revolt from it, shows itself. "No ruined angel or self-immolated sacrifice," Swinburne writes about Rossetti's *Jenny*, "there is no need to raise any mirage about her as of a fallen star, a glorious wreck." But he praises the "masculine tenderness" of the poem, its separation from the "shadow or suspicion of any facile or vulgar aim at pathetic effect" (73); and, two years later, in *Under the Microscope* he gives a completer expression which brings him nearer to Landor's view. "The sins and sorrows of all that suffer wrong, the oppressions that are done under the sun, the dark days

CHAPTER II. and shining deeds of the poor whom society casts out and crushes down, are assuredly material for poetry of a most high order, for the heroic passion of Victor Hugo's, for the angelic passion of Mrs. Browning's. Let another such arise to do such work as *Les Pauvres Gens* or *The Cry of the Children*, and there will be no lack of response to that singing" (74). And this was the poet who, critics said, had shown no *human sympathy*! Truly, he did what pleased him, and did it when it pleased him without regard of public demand or taste.

In this last Swinburne and Landor are again very near together: they are not, and never were or can be popular. *Atalanta* and *Erechtheus* are as far from common appreciation or affection as are the *Imaginary Conversations*: Landor cared nothing for fame: "Whatever works of imagination I have composed might have perished the next hour without a regret. My pleasure was in the conception and formation" (75); and again: "I wrote chiefly to occupy the vacant hour, caring not a straw for popularity, and little more for fame"—being absolutely certain, it is necessary to add, that fame of the choicest and most enduring sort awaited him. "I shall dine late, but the dining-room will be well lighted, the guests few and select."

Swinburne also, almost at the end of his life, wrote: "It is nothing to me that what I write should find immediate or general acceptance," confident in the worth of his art before the judgment of the years.

Individualists, then, each in his own way, CHAPTER
these two men stand together—averse from the II.
popular, and yet defenders of popular liberty, as
they understood it, lovers of little children and
of great men, of Nature and of Art.

CHAPTER III

SWINBURNE'S LANDOR

CHAPTER III. In the mid-spring of 1864 Swinburne first saw his hero. Landor was then living in Florence, "in a little house under the wall of the city directly back of the Carmine, in a by-street called the Via Nunziatina" (76), its number 2671. Not far away is the Casa Guidi, which the name of Browning has made famous; and it was Browning who had found this lodging for him. Swinburne's announcement of his arrival in Florence was among the letters sent by Landor to his biographer, Forster, and the sum of it, not given as quoted verbatim, yet having every appearance of being approximately so, was that "he had travelled as far as Italy with the sole object and desire of seeing him. He carried to him a letter from an old friend (since Lord Houghton); from many others of his countrymen, who might never hope to see him, he was the bearer of infinite homage and thankfulness; and for himself he had the eager wish to lay at his feet, what he could never hope to put into adequate words, profound gratitude and lifelong reverence" (77).

Writing to Edmund Clarence Stedman ten years later Swinburne adds something to the

little that is recorded of the meeting that ensued : CHAPTER
III.

I remember well how pleasant and how precious for all his high self-reliance and conscious *αὐτάρκεια*, the sincere tribute of genuine and studious admiration was even at the last to the old demigod with the head and the heart of a lion. I have often ardently wished I could have been born (say) but five years earlier, that my affection and reverence might have been of some use, and their expression found some echo while he was yet alive beyond the rooms in which he was to die (78).

Landor's biographers also speak of the pleasure which this tribute brought. Landor was then eighty-nine years old, his hair snowy white, his grand head not unlike that of Michael Angelo's Moses, with a patriarchal beard (79); his grey eyes still keen and clear. He had never had such a tribute before, though his greatness had been acknowledged and reverenced by the great men of three generations. The two poets must have discussed many matters : Landor's work ; the many aspects and concerns of life that it considers from as many points of vantage—one of these concerns the immortality of the soul. Of this Swinburne says in the same letter to Stedman that he had received it at Landor's lips that he had no belief whatever on the subject, "but was sure of one thing : whatever was to come was best." Swinburne laid before him the first part (80) of the poem in Greek, which he extended after Landor's death and prefaced as Dedication to *Atalanta*, that though losing the pleasure he might not lose the honour of inscribing in front of his work " the highest of contem-

CHAPTER III. porary names.” The first part of this poem has a noble beauty; and the second even more, revealing as it does yet a little more of their conversation.

Thou art gone. No more shalt thou be, nor shall I ever sit by thee in awe, and touch thy hands with reverent hands. Now once more a bitter sweet reverence steals over me as I recall what such an one as I have gained from thee. No more, sire, shall I gladden my dear eyes by thine, nor, best beloved, grasp thy right hand” (81).

It is a scene far away from our modern world, from English inhibitions and reserves. Like his old philosophers with Alcibiades (82), who laid their hands caressingly on his “crisp glossy curls so delicate and umbrageous,” Landor laid his hand on the “gold-haired head” (83) of this son of his spirit. He was the one in the world who could so consummate a lifelong benediction: the one living in Swinburne’s experience of the “few poets (who) lay a hallowing hand upon the head” (84). Like Sandt in one of the “Conversations” the young poet must have counted it pleasant (85) and more; for in the memorial verses on the death which followed in a few months, the “supreme lament for Landor,” he gave perfect expression to constrained grief, and recalled again the dear intimacies of this communion:

By this white wandering waste of sea,
Far north, I hear
One face shall never turn to me
As once this year:

Shall never smile and turn and rest
On mine as there,
Nor one most sacred hand be prest
Upon my hair.

Besides this poem and the Greek dedicatory poem to *Atalanta* and a hitherto unpublished sonnet on Landor which now comes to light in Mr. Gosse's *Life*, Swinburne has left six important documents that emphasise again and again the sincerity of the grief and devotion for which the first two poems alone would be the most convincing evidence. These are the Prelude to *Songs before Sunrise* (1871); the Latin verses entitled "Ad Catullum" (1874), included in *Poems and Ballads*, Second Series; the "Song for the Centenary of Walter Savage Landor" in *Studies in Song* (1880); "Thalassius" in *Songs of the Springtides* (1880); the article on Landor (1880) in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which is also included in *Miscellanies*; and, by allusion, the poem "On the Death of Mrs. Lynn Linton" (1898), in *A Channel Passage and Other Poems*. Besides these there are many occasional references to Landor scattered throughout the whole range of the critical work, the most important being in the "Notes on the Text of Shelley" (*Essays and Studies*); in the essay on Byron; and in the review of the anthology of "Social Verse" (*Studies in Prose and Poetry*) to which reference has already been made. In the prose articles the classic grace of Landor's verse receives significant praise; as do also his Republicanism and the largeness of his sympathy: "His passionate compassion, his bitter and burning pity for all wrongs endured in all the world" (86); the devotion to the cause of popular liberty which seals him, with Byron and Shelley, child of the eighteenth century political

CHAPTER or social idea (87). In the poems personal debt
III. is more obviously accounted and discharged.

Almost the most important of the poems on Landor, certainly the most precious of all Swinburne's expressions of love for him, is "Thalassius." Here, perfectly and definitely, he traces the biography of his spirit, from the time when Landor became a father to it until the time when it stood up in the strength and brightness of the principles Landor taught. One word of warning only is necessary : Swinburne's acknowledgment of a debt to Landor does not annul his debt to other persons. He had other heroes, as has been shown, Hugo and Mazzini—and many other men influenced him at one time and another.

Furthermore as we said at the beginning there is the danger of extravagance to which his expressions of gratitude or allegiance are always open, which was natural to one who set before himself as a desirable attainment the "noble pleasure of praising." One example will suffice. When Victor Hugo died, Swinburne wrote of the "all but incalculable debt" owed to him by "us, who from childhood upwards have fostered and fortified whatever of good was born in us—all capacity of spiritual work, all seed of human sympathy, all powers of hope and faith, all passions and aspirations found loyal to the service of duty and of love—with the bread of his deathless word and the wine of his immortal song" (88). Almost the same words describing the sustenance of his spirit, are used in "Thalassius"—a poem which refers explicitly to an old

man as the giver of this sustenance, venerable, himself born of man's highest and most heavenly birth, free, a warrior, grey with glories rather than years, though more years than man's normal lot had befallen him, a singer whose praise should fill all time :

And at his knees his fosterling was fed
Not with man's wine and bread,
Nor mortal mother-milk of hopes and fears,
But food of deep memorial days long sped ;
For bread with wisdom and with song for wine.

This last line so resembles the passage quoted on Hugo as to give pause before it be accepted as an expression which concerns any other person. But Hugo was only thirty-five years older than Swinburne himself, and even in a boy's imagination that span would not give to its possessor patriarchal grandeur or poise. He was hardly capable, moreover, of contributing the concentrated thought of past ages or of furnishing anything but mortal mother-milk of hope, fear, pity to a disciple (89). The foster father was Landor : to his high calm on Sunium, Hugo at best made few steps of approach.

In "Thalassius" Swinburne pictures a child "born of Apollo and Cymothoë" as reared into manhood with the food of gods—a child found laid asleep between sea and land by the receding tide, who grew into love for the father who found him, and the high song he taught. He taught how what seems too weak for life may overcome life and death by the strong faith of lordliest love ; that to love life overmuch is to die disgraced ; that to count love for life little and hate

CHAPTER
III.

great for all wrong-doing that is done anywhere, or at any time, beneath the sun, is to live in the semblance of eternity. And one fairer thing he showed him, stronger than change, higher than God, without which there could be no God. And that was Liberty, which man should gladly die to gain, and which having lost, he should gladlier lie dead (90), for he might not enter into the inheritance of earth, nor of the sweet sea, nor of his own land unless he himself were free.

The song lightened and spoke of love—love that turns God's heart manward, man's Godward, love that gives meaning and substance to life and death from the first breath to the final suspiration. It is greater than body or soul, and should live, not wholly made nothing even if body and soul were dead, its elements perpetuating their separate selves in its large heat as such men, dying, perpetuate themselves in man.

The song taught hate also—hate of everything that brings or holds in thraldom, either bodily or spiritual, man's holy body and sacred soul, which were free-born before God began. And it taught that hatred should be set there most inexorably wherever there was a curse, or a chain, or despotism, moulded out of the pain of poor men, until there should be no more the semblance of a king anywhere.

And hope the high song taught him—the keen eyesight of the soul into things impenetrable, that discovers in man's future the birth of good, and the inevitable and infinite death of evil; the stormy twilight of all gods and the sundawn of the spirit that was man.

The song taught fear also—fear to be unworthy of the dear love of the wind and sea that had bred the boy fearless, and fear to be unworthy of the heaven he had when young life surged in his veins, like wine or music.

So, clothed with love and perfect fear, and armed with hope and hate, he set foot on the ways of his life's glad spring. And there on a dim dawn one met him—

. . . lovely, a god, powerful with his eyes, pitiful.
No man untutored might know that he was Love.

So they went down the ways together until April grew to May; then Love looked at the youth, with hard eyes and hot, and grew great immeasurably and said, “I am Lord of all the ways: fool, my name is Sorrow, is Death.” And having said this, he was gone.

Through many weary nights and days the youth went on: but the earth and heaven were bitter, the sea sorrowful as he, the wind unavailing, till his heart grew numb. Then one bright evening before the end of summer, a tempest arose, vast, clangorous, full of lightning, and wild singing, and madness of Bassirides, at which his heart caught fire, blowing and made one with the tempest. So he set his lips against the brightest lips he met, that laughed for love, and bade him follow. Then he followed, and his blood grew again light as a sea-bird's, as he rode in the fierce light of his dread lady's eyes, his ears fulfilled of the music that makes mad. But heaven was without heart to bless, and earth lay distraught and unhelping.

CHAPTER

III.

For many a morning and evening and midnight his mother sought him, the sea-bird that was her boy, bearing in her hands a sea crown, goodlier gift than all below the gods'. But he sat "panther-throned beside *Erigone*," revelling in the midst of "pale-mouthed passion's crownless crew," till one morning he set his eyes seaward, and passed from out the fierce ranks, back to grey dunes beside the sea, and there lying against a sea rock "fell after many sleepless dreams on sleep." And in his sleep the green dark light of the sea was shed upon him, and the memory of her glories, so that he woke on fire with yearning of old years and purged of pain; and his mother looked laughing toward him from her mid-sea throne.

Thenceforward the same great joy began in him that had made the child man, and he communed with his own heart, and had rest; and the comfort of the earth and the sweet breath of the sea breathed life into him in room of death, and the grace of the old time returned. Then song grew within him, strong with sorrow and mirth, and he felt within him the soul within his senses throb responsive to deep sea pulses, charming him so from his own soul's separateness that strength was made sweet in him, sweetness strong.

Being now no more a singer but a song.

Then came a day, when the waves were full of godhead and the light that saves, and he felt the spirit of his immortal father upon him, and his father's hand upon his head, and the old great voice of the old good time, that said :

Because thou hast loved nought mortal more than me, CHAPTER
Thy father, and thy mother-hearted sea ; III.

Because thou hast given thy flower and fire of youth
To feed men's hearts with visions, truer than truth ;
Because thou hast kept in those world-wandering eyes
The light that makes me music of the skies ;

Have therefore in thine heart and in thy mouth
The sound of song that mingles north and south,
The song of all the winds that sing of me,
And in thy soul the sense of all the sea.

The poem ends then as it began, in strict conformity with the artistic definition indicated by the title "Thalassius." This definition is nowhere construed narrowly or vaguely ; the poet does not attempt to trace the gradual process of his becoming what suns and winds and waters made him, or to extend the personally exerted influence of his divine parents. He has entrusted it to a human figure to represent the Lord of Light and the Freedom of the Sea : such a human beneficence as no mere invention could have fitted to the need, but whose dignity, no less than his service, attests the absolute veracity of the fundamental experiences that the poem records. Not only is the person of Landor clearly distinguishable, but the period of his foster fatherhood is in perfect harmony with the real fatherhood of the god : he speaks as it were by continuous mandate of Apollo, truths lovely as song, songs perfect as light. And it is in recollection of these that the youth, freed from Erigone, wakes "on fire with yearnings of old years" ; and sets himself on that service whose consummation is the divine blessing and the laureateship of the sea.

The Prelude to *Songs before Sunrise* (1871), enumerated among the poems dealing with Landor, is in a different case from all the rest : it does not name Landor as does the "Centenary Song," for instance, or "Ad Catullum" ; and it does not describe him completely nor allude to him in any such incontrovertible fashion as does "Thalassius." Furthermore it is one of a collection of poems dedicated to Joseph Mazzini and referred to in both "Dedication" and "Epilogue" as "of the seed" of Mazzini's sowing.

Nevertheless the poem belongs where we have placed it, for it conforms to every known detail of the history of Swinburne's relationship with Landor. In fundamentals, it is an analogy of "Thalassius" and (in part) an allegory of the Fiesole days described in the dedication of *Atalanta*, and in the supreme lament for Landor in *Poems and Ballads*. Especially is this obvious in the opening stanza which is a compressed rendering of the account of training at the hands of Landor recorded more fully in other poems :

Between the green bud and the red
Youth sat and sang by Time, and shed
From eyes and tresses flowers and tears,
From heart and spirit hopes and fears,
Upon the hollow stream whose bed
Is channelled by the foamless years . . . ;
And with the white the gold-haired head
Mixed running locks, and in Time's ears
Youth's dreams hung singing, and Time's truth
Was half not harsh in the ears of Youth.

Surely no better metaphor than this of "Time" could be found for the "venerable and veritable

demigod" who had lived the space of three generations, and had been the companion and interpreter of the great men of a hundred; to whom Swinburne came as the "youngest to the oldest singer that England bore."

CHAPTER
III.

But the "youth" of the Prelude is not yet one with "Time"; his own dreams and sorrows and burdens, real enough and melodious to be heeded by this white-haired Beneficence, not unmindful of his own immaturity, were under the enchantment of their own melody. Yet "Time's truth," yet Landor's beauty and wisdom of words, were "half not harsh" in the midst of them.

"Between the bud and the blown flower" the youth changed his companionship, and talked awhile with sterile delight and suicidal pain: he knew the terrible riot of Bassirides following dim and fiery goddesses to the rush and beat of Asian music—the same tempest of passion described in "Thalassius"; here, as there, ensuing upon the first free converse with "Time" or Landor. But after the storm ceased, he stood up and asserted his manhood, treading to dust fear and desire and dreams, walking with knowledge and patience of what must and may be, nourishing his soul on freedom. He took cheer with the light, hills, winds, and streams; the actual earth's equalities: he scorned the fellowship of weak souls, and gloried in the power of souls sufficient unto themselves. For soul is man's one guide, and

. . . only souls that keep their place
By their own light, and watch things roll,
And stand, have light for any soul.

In other words, he stood up in strength and individualism—such a proud strength as had always walked where it must breathe hard, and where such breathing was luxury ; such a haughty individualism as had made its plain requisition, for service or companionship, strength in those who would serve or accompany : “ All are of the same rank and condition with me who have climbed as high, who have stood as firmly, who have never descended. Neglect of time, subserviency to fortune, compliance with power or passions, would thrust men far below me.” He established himself in the principles of strength and individualism he had learned from Landor.

The Latin poem “ *Ad Catullum* ” (1874) is little more than a wish to be guided by the poet of Sirmio across the Stygian water—

Ut ora vatis optimi reviserem,
Tui meique vatis ora. . . .

that is—as the poem continues, that he might see Landor.

The “ *Song for the Centenary of Walter Savage Landor* ” (1880—being five years later than a hundred after Landor’s birth) is the most elaborate of Swinburne’s expressions on this subject ; consisting as it does of fifty stanzas of sixteen lines each, and covering the whole range of Landor’s work. The genus of the poem is novel : it actually reviews nearly seventy poems, plays, imaginary conversations, dedications, or epitaphs by Landor—sometimes, it must be admitted, walking on the edge of a sheer rhetoric rather than floating bird-like in the serenity of pure song. But the line that divides the two is hard

to trace, as is perhaps evidenced best by the sixth and seventh stanzas, the sixth pausing a little momentously on the grave of a song long dead—"the exquisite first stanzas extant from the hand of Landor," as the notes make plain—an inoffensive little bit of doggerel, written by a schoolboy on the story of Godiva, and laughed out of countenance by an uproarious schoolfellow to whom it was confidently revealed. Yet Swinburne finds in it presage of all Landor's "love and faith in life and death," and from this frail spray takes his flight into one of the lordliest passages in the whole poem, or in the whole poetry of praise :

A song of soft presageful breath,
Prefiguring all his love and faith in life and death.

Who should love two things only and only praise—
More than all else forever : even the glory
Of goodly beauty in woman, whence all days
Take light whereby death's self seems transitory ;
And loftier love than loveliest eyes can raise,
Love that wipes off the miry stains and gory
From Time's worn feet, besmirched on blood-red ways,
And lightens with his light the night of story.

(§§ 6 and 7.)

The poem takes up some of the strains heard earlier in the Prelude to *Songs before Sunrise*, and later in "Thalassius." Most explicitly it establishes the connection between Landor and the doctrine of self-sufficiency which our earlier discussion of the Prelude suggested tentatively. The fiery star of his youth was dual : Freedom, brighter than the Sun, and Song, whose fires are quenched when Freedom's are dead. No soul of any glorious time loved Freedom better than

CHAPTER III. he, and that scripture of the sun was his that said
upon the tomb of patriots :

Gladly we should rest ever, had we won
Freedom. We have lost and very gladly rest.

Song was as a shadowy sword to him, wrought to
put all evil things to flight. He struck dumb
the lying and hungering lips of priests ; he
scourged kings and living slaves with the fiery
rod of his scorn ; he mocked and spat (91) upon
the Lord their God, whom they had erected tyrant
of the skies as they were tyrants and lords of
earth ; and he would have it that, those being
slain, the spirit alone should be Lord and God.
His godlike head was reverted always from the
temporal throng ; he lived with the living dead,
and their splendours or shadows made bright
and dark about his board and bed, life and vision.
Thought gave him the width of time to roam in,
and love opened to him the forgetful years ;
Simonides smiled from his throne in heaven upon
those songs of his upon the dead that hang like
pearls in the ears of mourners ; in his hand, the
staff that stayed through some Aetnean glen the
steps of the mightiest and most awful-souled of
singers, became, even as then, a prophet's rod,
a lyre on fire with God even as it had become in
the hands of Aeschylus. He saw and heard and
sung all things of old time ; through his Roman
trumpet rang the pure music of Grecian flutes.
The thunder fire of Cromwell, the ray of Phocion
and Kosciusco met in the heaven of his bright
thought, Milton's sovereign speech he made heard
as from living lips ; he brooded upon enthralled

Hellas until she rose and donned again the helm ^{CHAPTER} of Pallas, and the blast of his clarion was filled ^{III.} with her breath as future souls are filled by past.

Let Freedom and Song shine upon his grave, for neither England nor Greece ever beheld a brow more resplendent with their lambency, and his name is now written in heaven among man's most glorious names. No storm can now flaw or deform that torch that lightens us yet, as over his pyre, for no blast could ever make it dim. O poet hero, lord and father, we record that flaming epitaph and faith of thine with reverence and thanks in our hearts (may my lute be loyal to thy lyre). Poet whose loyalty of love abounded to all high poets ; strong and tender one ; fearless heart that yet all men's griefs might move ; pure soul and eyes clear of shame or fear, that only pity and glorious wrath could blind :

Name set for love apart
Held lifelong in my heart,
Face like a father's toward my face inclined ;
No gifts like thine are mine to give
Who by thine own words only bid thee hail, and live.

And yet one word more ; for to the last note Swinburne adds : " But who can enumerate all or half our obligations to the illimitable and inexhaustible genius of the great man whose life and whose labour lasted even from the generation of our fathers' fathers to our own. Hardly any reader can feel, I think, so deeply as I feel, the inadequacy of my poor praise and too imperfect gratitude to the majestic subject of their attempted expression ; but ' such as I had have I given him. ' "

CHAPTER III. His last published mention of Landor is part of the poem, "On the Death of Mrs. Lynn Linton" (*A Channel Passage and other Poems*, 1904). She had been near and dear to Landor when he was alive—as is explained in the Dedication of the "Centenary Song"; and in death Swinburne sees her reunited with him :

We see no more what here awhile
Shed light on men :
Has Landor seen that brave bright smile
Alive again ?

The father-spirit, whence her soul
Took strength and gave
Back love, is perfect yet and whole
As hope may crave.

The sire and daughter, twain, and one
In quest and goal,
Stand face to face beyond the sun,
And soul to soul.

The poem thus treats of a relationship with Landor much like Swinburne's own (92). He had found in Landor a father to his spirit, one who summed up in himself those principles which "Thalassius" records he taught to his foster-son: the sublimity of Love, and the divinity of Freedom. From these supreme values certain duties devolve: the duty to praise what is noble, and the duty to hate and assail whatever holds in thrall the holy spirit of man.

CHAPTER IV

FIRST EVIDENCES

IN the three great poetical records of Landor's influence upon him, Swinburne places its beginning at a very early date: in the figurative language of "Thalassius," at birth; in the Prelude, "between the green bud and the red"; in the "Centenary Song," early enough to create a "lifelong" experience. Practically all this is literally true: and being so is most convincing evidence of the precocity of his genius. His lifelong affection for Landor began when he was a child (93). Mr. Gosse, in the official biography, records that Swinburne told Landor, when they met in 1864, that "his poems had first given him inexplicable pleasure and a sort of blind relief when he was a small fellow of twelve. He added that his first recollection of them was of 'The Song of the Hours' in *Iphigenia*."

There are other confirmations as well, chief of them being the presence among his college activities of certain ideas and impulses stamped unmistakably with Landor's own seal. One of these came to light in the speech (94) already referred to, in praise of the "Virtue of Tyrannicide," its occasion being the attempted assas-

CHAPTER IV. sination of Napoleon III. by Felice Orsini (Jan. 14, 1858). It is almost self-evident that there was no one but Landor from whom such an idea could have been derived ; no one of standing in England of Swinburne's time who could have written as Landor wrote :

Most dear of all the virtues to her Sire
Is Justice, and most dear
To Justice is Tyrannicide. (viii. 42.)

If evidence for Swinburne's adoption or consideration of the doctrine were limited to the rumour of a speech delivered at a time of boyish excitement, it might be unjustifiable to do anything but pass it over. But the speech finds echo in a variety of expressions scattered throughout the poems, from the earliest to the latest, showing that he long entertained the idea. In 1890, for instance, to begin at the latest date, "Russia, An Ode" has this :

Pity mad with passion, anguish mad with shame,
Call aloud on justice by her darker name ;
Love grows hate for love's sake ; life takes death for guide.
Night hath none but one red star—Tyrannicide.

In *Studies in Song* (1880) there appears a sonnet entitled "For a Portrait of Felice Orsini "

. . . who thought to vanquish wrong with wrong,
Erring, and made rage and redemption greet,
Havoc and freedom. . . .

But all a hero lived and erred and died ;
Looked thus upon the living world he left
So bravely, that with pity less than pride
Men hail him Patriot and Tyrannicide.

The same volume contains the great "Song for

the Centenary of Walter Savage Landor"; and ^{CHAPTER} IV.
there it is recorded (stanza 45):

His hand bade Justice guide
Her child Tyrannicide.

And in *The Queen Mother* (1860) something of a variant of the same idea is expressed:

... that slow snake,
Impotent patience of pernicious things,
Endurance a blind sort of sleepy lie
To confute God with. (v. 5.)

Here it seems is evidence sufficient to support the rumoured speech, and definitely to determine the origin of its idea. Even the (1880) disapproval of Orsini's act is prepared for by Landor. "Miserable Orsini!" he wrote to his appointed biographer in January 1858, the day after the attempt: "he sat with me two years ago at the table on which I am now writing. Dreadful work! horrible crime! To inflict death on a hundred for the sin of one! Such a blow can serve only to awaken tyranny, reverberating on the brass helmets of her satellites" (95). It is likely that Landor would have been almost as much shocked had the one been killed and the many spared. Yet his whole life long he preached the right of private punishment for the public oppressor. "Every virtuous man in the universe is a member of that grand Amphictyonic council, which should pass sentence on the too powerful and provide that it be duly executed" (96). In 1849 he was stirred by the efforts of Hungary to secure

CHAPTER
IV.

freedom from Austria ; and his letter to the *Examiner* called down upon the Russian Czar, aiding in the suppression of the Hungarians, the vengeance of the oppressed : “ Justice is immutable and divine ; but laws are human and mutable ; they are violated every day, changed and superseded perpetually, and sometimes ejected from the judgment seat by military power. In such a case, what remains for nations ? History tells us. There springs up a virtue from the very bosom of Crime, venerably austere, Tyrannicide. . . . Can Russia have forgotten that awful vision, which hath reared its head so often over her imperial crown . . . ? ” (97) In the same year (1849), fruited with the murder of the Roman Republic and the reinstitution of God’s vicar by force of perfidy and arms, he wrote : “ Is it credible, is it possible, that Rome, that Italy, that Europe, are to be long without an avenger ? If the laws are subverted, is there no danger to the subverter ? In a moral view is it criminal to strike him down ? ” (98)

This last is, of course, an open threat against Louis Napoleon ; and it shows that Swinburne was in no way misusing the doctrine of the “ Virtue of Tyrannicide ” when he applied it in his “ Old Mortality ” speech to the same personage, by that time dignified as Napoleon III. But it is only one of Landor’s assaults upon him, just as the speech is a single instance of Swinburne’s. More instances of the same sort are needed from this same period to show that Swinburne tells the simple truth in “ Thalassius ”

when he says that Landor taught him as a youth ^{CHAPTER} ^{IV.} to set his hate most inexorably against despotism. And such instances are forthcoming : from Landor, in all his work ; from Swinburne, in his drama *The Queen Mother* (1860), written during his college years—a work which up to now has been noticed, if at all, for its sensuousness or the promise of its technique. But it not only promised ; it gave and attained. Swinburne in it boldly presented himself as a republican of the school of Landor.

Landor's *Last Fruit off an old Tree* (1853) supplied Swinburne with the doctrine of Tyrannicide. It must also have brought to his attention such minor notes of Landor's trumpet blasts against the murderer of the Roman Republic as the following :

Hast thou forgotten, thou more vile
Than he who clung to Helen's isle
Rather than fall among the brave ?

Twice traitor, ère a nation's trust
Rais'd thee a third time from the dust
For what ? . . . to be a traitor still.

(viii. 251.)

Or (more specifically concerned with the Roman matter) :

Made our God again, Pope Pius !
Worthy to be worshipt by us !
Come to Paris, and put on
Thy true son Napoleon
(Blest afresh) that glorious crown,
Crushing crippled Europe down,

[Upon] one who far oytwits
Keenest-witted Jesuits,

And without a blush outlies
Thee and all thy perjuries.

(viii. 253, 254.)

Similar, but louder, blasts blow throughout Landor's public letters, where, for instance, one denunciation of the "half Napoleon" (99) describes him as being "without any first principles . . . swearing to republicanism before the people, abjuring it before the priesthood, undermining it at home, battering it down abroad" (100).

A more interesting medium of such criticism of contemporary political affairs is Landor's dramatic work. The dramatic event may belong to remote centuries; but the dramatic utterance often has a double value, not the least important part of which relates it to events of Landor's own time. Many such comments could not but have affected a young republican who came across them (as Swinburne must have done) during the last decade of Italian disunity: these, for example, from a single scene of *Fra Rupert*, which is a part of Landor's trilogy on Ippolita d'Este :

Fire and ocean
Shall lie together, and shall both pant gorged,
Before the Church be satisfied, if Church
Be that proud purple shapeless thing we see;

or, of political oppression, and here it must be remembered that the Austrian oppressors of Italy were regularly spoken of as "Germans":

When the whole nation cries in agony
Against the sway of Germans, should I halt?

(vii. 212.)

or again (from *The Siege of Ancona*) :

CHAPTER
IV.

Consul. What would your master with his perfidy ?

Herald. My master is the emperor and king.

Consul. The more perfidious. Binds him not his oath
To succour Italy ? Is slavery succour ?

(vii. 241.)

But the political situation in Italy as it was in Swinburne's day needs a note, however brief, in order that it may be understood just how he might construe these, and many other passages like them, from Landor's dramas.

Little Piedmont, aiming to free Italy from Austrian domination, had discovered in two unsuccessful campaigns, 1848 and 1849, how visionary was the hope that her unaided arm would accomplish this. Cavour's unflinching efforts seemed to have secured such aid as would turn hope to certainty when the momentous meeting at Plombières occurred (1858) between the great Premier and the French Emperor. Napoleon is said to have spoken much like a real Italian Liberal. He had been deeply moved by the final appeal of ill-fated Orsini : "Deliver Italy, and the blessings of twenty-five millions of Italians will follow you" (101). Cavour had pressed the advantage. The Emperor promised to attack Austria in behalf of Italian liberty and he was held to it. Austria was diplomatically isolated in 1859, and war began, with all France except the Clerical party in full sympathy. Montebello and Magenta followed. The Emperor's proclamation "seemed to sanction the highest aspirations of the Italians. 'My army,' he said, 'will be concerned only to fight your

APFTER IV. enemies and maintain order at home; it will place no obstacle to the free manifestation of your legitimate wishes.' Italy took him at his word" (102).

English lovers of Italy took him at his word: Mrs. Browning foremost among them. Swinburne describes her mistake some ten years later in "The Halt before Rome" (*Songs before Sunrise*):

Erred once, in only a word,
The sweet great song that we heard
Poured upon Tuscany, erred,
Calling a crowned man royal
That was no more than a king.

Sea-eagle of English feather,
A song-bird beautiful-souled,
She knew not them that she sang.

Landor took him at his word, relenting a little from his old denunciation, if we may trust the record of his somewhat earlier Epistle published in the poems of 1858, "To the Emperor":

Tell Justice to outspread her wings
And cool the crazy heads of kings:
Her balance may be now restored
By throwing in the Gallic sword.
Thy future glory let it be
To serve the good and rule the free.

Swinburne also took him at his word; he who, as he says later, addressing Italy:

. . . when others played or slept
Sat still under thy cross and wept.
("Siena," *S. b. S.*)

And in the words which he gives to Denise, in his *Queen Mother*, trying to bend Charles IX.

against the Jesuitical and Queen's party, to ^{CHAPTER} IV. make of St. Bartholomew's a day sacred, not to be abhorred, we may hear his own voice, as it were, pleading with the crusader of Italian liberty at this point of his crusade :

And now God puts this hour of time to be
 A steel sword in your hand, and says withal,
 " Now give me token if there be a king
 Inside you, do me right who made you way,
 Drew you so high " ; I pray you for God's love
 Let none put thievish fingers on the time,
 Loosen your sword God girt so next your side.

(iii. 1.)

But Magenta was not the end. Solferino followed ; then " suddenly on the eve of triumph the Italians found the cup dashed from their lips. The Emperor had made peace." . . . " The news of the armistice was a bolt from the blue to the Italians " (103). Sober historians speak of it as " a betrayal." What sort of speaking was to be expected of a young poet who had perhaps deliberately put away memory of the destruction of the Roman Republic because the destroyer in the later years had given promise of a great compensating deed ? What sort of speaking but this ? He suits it in Landor's fashion to the persons of his drama. Sick with the spilt blood of Bartholomew, Charles is exhibiting a pale penitence to Catherine ; and she appeases him with the assurance that worse things may be :

Who knows, sweet son,
 But here, and in this very Paris, where
 Our work now smells abhorred, some such may come
 To try more bloody issues, and break faith

More shamefully ? Make truth deny its face,
 Kill honour with his lips, stab shame to death,
 Unseat men's thoughts, envenom all belief,
 Yea, spit into the face and eyes of God
 His forsworn promise ?

(v. ix.)

This *of course* refers to Louis Napoleon ; in the first instance to the *coup d'état* of December 2, 1851 (104) ; but, in the second instance perhaps, to the whole series of Napoleon's perjuries in Italy, of which the betrayal at Villafranca (July 1859) must have been the most recent in Swinburne's memory (unless indeed it had not yet occurred) since his volume was published in 1860, and must have been in preparation during this period of Italian history.

It refers to the *coup d'état* by Swinburne's own admission ; for, some thirty years later, he makes it plain that the crime which Catherine prophesies is the "crime of December." He uses one term as metaphor for the other—"the *coup d'état* of August 24, 1572," and "the St. Bartholomew of December 2, 1851" (105). But it refers to all the rest of Napoleon's perjuries in Italy, because Swinburne was passionately interested in the progress of the *Risorgimento*, as is shown in his fervid *Ode to Mazzini* (posthumously discovered), which internal evidence definitely dates in 1857 (106) ; as well as by the autobiographical record of such poems as "Siena" or "The Halt before Rome" previously quoted. And surely interest of that kind would express itself, voiding all bitterness aroused by all the crimes in the description of one ; especially if there was opportunity (as there was in this drama) to

treat of one only. Important, then, in Swinburne and Landor alike is this "dramatic" abuse of Napoleon III.; and, indeed, the general abuse it represents of all oppressive powers—in Swinburne's phrase, the "great gaolers . . . that wear at waist the keys of the world." But more important in them both is the love that underlies all this hatred of tyrants—a simple, unreflecting, and intense love of freedom. Denise, in *The Queen Mother*, expresses the passion :

There's nothing in the world
So worth as freedom ; pluck this freedom out,
You leave the rag and residue of a man
Like a bird's back displumed. That man that hath not
The freedom of his name, and cannot make
Such use as time and place would please him with,
But has the clog of service at his heel,
Forbidding the sound gait ; this is no man
But a man's dog ; the pattern of a slave
Is model for a beast.

(v. 2.)

In Landor, Scipio Africanus delivers an even more fervid apostrophe, as he looks at the signs of the frantic efforts of now burning Carthage :

O Liberty ! what art thou to the valiant and brave,
when thou art thus to the weak and timid ! dearer than
life, stronger than death, higher than purest love. Never
will I call upon thee where thy name can be profaned,
and never shall my soul acknowledge a more exalted
Power than thee.—(ii. 316.)

Surely there had not been since Addison's *Cato* a more passionate outcry for unexplained and unsupported Freedom than this of Landor's. And there has not been since that apostrophe until now a purer counterpart of that than Swinburne's.

CHAPTER
IV.

Of other passages in *The Queen Mother* that show sympathy with Landor, the most important relate to religious abuses and occur in connection with Catherine. Such, for instance, is the high moral counsel and wise appeal that her speaking of them turns to rancid hypocrisy and patent Jesuitism ; the “ screw of hers ” that wrenches the king round to countenance the plan of massacre, her double good to blossom “ upon a most small evil ” ; her hand and mouth that are so swift and sure—

To stab and lie and pray and poison with;
(i. 4)

her empty beauty of words on God and the world, and man so cunningly fashioned; her mask of duty over malice, feigning—

... only this is sad,
To be given up to change and the mere shame
Of its abominable and obscure work
With no good done, no clean thing in the soul
To sweeten against resurrection-time
This mire that made a body. (ii. 1.)

And this is the woman whose main policy, as Swinburne elsewhere describes it, was the corruption of her own children, whose palace "it would be flattery to call a brothel or a slaughter-house"! (107) He was assuredly following, as he says he was, Marlowe the teacher (108) and Webster the pupil of Shakespeare; but even in full remembrance of such anti-clericalism as is exhibited by Marlowe, and of corrupt Italian courts viewed through Webster's over-sombre Puritan eyes, it

is difficult to account for Swinburne's vehemence without referring to similar or extremer expressions of disgust at the continuation of church abuse, when these expressions were brought home to him by so many avenues of appeal as were Landor's. The nineteenth-century version was, to say the least, an intenser indictment of the church than even the wide limits of Elizabethan playcraft or conscience could furnish. Setting aside such imaginary conversations as those between Leo XII. and his valet Gigi, and Miguel and his Mother, which are sufficiently farcical to be described (in language Swinburne applies to traits of Shakespeare's third period) as "fetid fun and rancid ribaldry," there yet remains in Landor's work a vast deal of serious though libellous declamation against the church. An extract from the drama *Iñes de Castro* will serve for example :

Pedro. Iñes, the Church is now a charnel house,
Where all that is not rottenness is growth.

Men's bones and marrow its materials are,
Men's groans inaugurated it, men's tears
Sprinkle its floor, fires lighted up with men
Are censers for it ; Agony and Wrath
Surround it night and day with sleepless eyes ;
Dissimulation, Terror, Treachery,
Denunciations of the child, the parent,
The sister, brother, lover (mark me, Iñes !)
Are the peace-offerings God receives from it ;

(i. 8)

or a passage from *Fra Rupert* illustrative of one important theme in the whole trilogy of which this drama is a part :

CHAPTER IV.

Rupert. Fealty sworn, should I retract so soon?
I will live quiet . . . no more crimes for me. . . .
When this is fairly over . . . for a crime
It surely is . . . albeit much holier men
Have done much worse and died in odour after.

(iii. 4.)

Illustration from Landor's prose could only repeat this invective in connection with particular events, such as the attack on the Roman Republic by French troops, under constraint certainly of the "Jesuitical and Papistical faction" (to use Landor's phrase) "in France." "Duplicity, falsehood, violence, are asserted by the greater part of them to be allowable, and even laudable, if they promote the interests of the church" (109). The writer of this, it must be remembered, had ample provocation, none the less severe because only a few years before he had dedicated his *Hellenics* to Pius IX., on the occasion of that Holiness' brief and illusive apostacy from mediaevalism. "Never until now, most Holy Father," Landor wrote, "did I hope or desire to offer my homage to any potentate on earth; and now I offer it only to the highest of them all." Subsequent events did not justify his optimism, nor, as has been shown, leave his faith in the papacy entirely serene,—nor the faith of his disciple.

A word of warning is now pertinent. It must not be concluded too soon that the correspondence shown between Landor and Swinburne proves

absolute “influence” of the older upon the younger writer. But for the dogma of the ^{CHAPTER} IV. Virtue of Tyrannicide which no one but Landor gave to Swinburne—not Cicero nor Milton nor Mariana—many of the ideas and sentiments he holds in common with Landor in the connections just described may well have come to him from a variety of sources. It could be shown, for instance, that his knowledge of the debauched religion of courts had directer information even than Landor’s dramas and Conversations could furnish. Swinburne was exceptionally well read in the darker parts of social history. As a very young man he seems already familiar enough with the diary of Johannes Buchardus, Master of Ceremonies to Alexander VI., and with Brantôme’s biography of the Medicean Court, and Grammont’s of the Court of Charles II. Furthermore, he was a close observer of contemporary history and of the political usefulness to emperors and such like of clerical parties. It could be shown, too, that his hatred of this abuse, greater even than his knowledge of it, had the ample support of Hugo, whose *Les Châtiments*, for instance, or *L’Année Terrible* were stirring examples to him.

But to acknowledge both of these facts is only to emphasise the importance of his spiritual relationship with Landor. Swinburne was well informed as to social decadence in many periods: perhaps too well. He writes about it, at times, with much sympathy, as in sections of the early dramas. It seems also to be part of the burden of sorrow that weighs upon *Poems and Ballads*.

CHAPTER IV. He was doubtless instructed in anti-clericalism and anti-imperialism by Hugo. Yet, in *The Queen Mother*, despite its artistic concern with the colourful depravity of courts, he finds occasion to be moralist, and he finds opportunity to be political liberalist. The accent of this liberalism is unmistakably Landor's. Its form and its spirit are after his example. Against opposition, then, the sturdier traits of Swinburne's genius, under Landor's patronage, were coming to the fore.

This same condition obtains in the *Poems and Ballads*, to be discussed in the next chapter. It is complicated a little there by the incentive Landor's *Hellenics* seem to have been for the composition of some of these erotica ; a supplementary incentive, it must be said, which is hardly discernible, though it is important, in the Elizabethan and Pre-Raphaelite current which was sweeping the young poet on into sadness and inertia. From these moods of depression he recovers himself by the exercise of strength which, if "Thalassius" is a true record, was both stimulated and sustained by his hero-worship.

CHAPTER V

“ TOO MUCH LOVE OF LIVING ”

(*The Garden of Proserpine.*)

A lady clothed like summer with sweet hours.

Her beauty, fervent as a fiery moon,
Made my blood burn and swoon
Like a flame rained upon.

(*Ballad of Life.*)

All things felt sweet were felt sweet overmuch.

(*The Two Dreams.*)

As one made drunk with living, whence he draws
Drunken delight. . . .

(*Atalanta in Calydon.*)

How he that loves life overmuch shall die

The dog's death utterly.

(*Thalassius.*)

IN the foregoing chapter it has been shown that the first result of Swinburne's devotion to Landor is the passionate love of liberty and contempt of tyrants which is one characteristic of *The Queen Mother*, the more important of the two plays of Swinburne's first published volume. It is a high and moral result.

Attention must now be given to the result of the relationship as it may have affected other characteristics of *The Queen Mother and Rosamond* (1860), together with *Chastelard* (1865), and the *Poems and Ballads* of 1866—especially

CHAPTER V. those dominating characteristics of supersensuousness and of alleged sensuality which invite for the period of these poems the title Swinburne himself suggests for it, "Too much Love of Living." Long ago the criticism was made that Landor had encouraged just this development. It appeared in a *Westminster Review* article of April 1867, which, however, had under consideration not only *Poems and Ballads* and *Chastelard*, considered here, but *Atalanta in Calydon* as well.

The remark is this : "Some personal influences of a noteworthy kind may be traced in these volumes. First, that of Walter Savage Landor, whom Mr. Swinburne with extravagant praise speaks of as the 'highest of contemporary names.' Landor's affection for the classical and even the pagan spirit, his erratic love of liberty, his lofty scorn of all conventions, and of the opinion of the many, have left a deep impress on the character of the young disciple."

Now it is very likely that even this reviewer—as clear-eyed a critic as Swinburne has ever had, and far more kindly than most he had in that generation—was thinking principally of *Atalanta in Calydon* (whose dedication invokes Landor in the words he quotes) when he wrote of Landor's influence. Certainly the other two works under his notice (*Poems and Ballads* and *Chastelard*) are so different in colour from anything of Landor's, even from the few errancies that are chargeable against him, that, apart from the protestations of affection for Landor supplied by Swinburne himself, inspiration of them must have been re-

ferred to some other source. The classicism of the poems might surely be allowed direct descent, pulsing as it does with the very throb and blood of Sappho, or in another case, “ *Phaedra*,” dependant upon Seneca. The love of liberty might have been traced rather to the long line of English lovers of the goddess, from Ben Jonson to Milton, and from Halifax to Shelley or Tennyson; or best of all to Hugo (whose influence, indeed, the reviewer recognises as liberal and beneficent “ so far as it goes ” in these works), since the *leit-motiv* of political freedom is carried in *Poems and Ballads* by two songs, “ *In Time of Revolution* ” and “ *In Time of Order*, ” and both of these derive from him (110). Then, too, both “ liberty ” and the classic might have escaped his attention under pressure of the more obvious burden of those poems to which he presumably refers in the debatable judgment he goes on to make: “ Mr. Swinburne has learned much more from the existing school of French poets than from any modern English writers.”

And yet, be this as it may, with almost all the evidence in favour of the opinion that the reviewer did not intend to discover a connection between *Poems and Ballads* and Landor, it may be well to give him the benefit of the doubt, and accept the criticism as implying that Landor’s affection for the classical and even the pagan spirit, and his lofty scorn of all conventions were influences that helped to determine the course of *Poems and Ballads* as well as that of *Atalanta*. Such an assumption finds some support coming from Swinburne himself. For, in the *Notes on*

CHAPTER V. *Poems and Reviews* (1866), he affirms the independence of his pen, especially the pen that wrote *Poems and Ballads*, and reaffirms it with two quoted lines, the last two of this sextet :

Wearers of rings and chains !
Pray do not take the pains
To set me right.
In vain my faults ye quote ;
I write as others wrote
On Sunium's height. (viii. 179.)

And the sextet is Landor's.

Swinburne then, let us say, did derive some encouragement from Landor for the composition of the poems and dramas under consideration here; was somewhat led perhaps in his choice of his early subjects by Landor's use. But it is only one phase of Landor's work that influenced him in this way. Plainly it is not the phase he describes in "Thalassius," which taught that "he who loves life overmuch shall die the dog's death"; and which we must suppose Swinburne came to know a little later. Plainly, too, considering its calm and his turbidity, its Greek ease and his romantic fever, even this first he did not understand. At the time he was being swayed by other forces that gave little opportunity for full allegiance to Landor. .

It is necessary to note this, for while admitting Landor's "influence," it is possible to show that every stage of Swinburne's progress through this period, with the notable exception of the last and emerging stage, definitely subscribes to some master other than Landor.

This situation can be outlined briefly, for the

poems of “ too much love of living ” arrange CHAPTER V. themselves logically, and it would seem chronologically (see Appendices) into certain partially or wholly distinct moods following this order :

(1) The mood of eager sensuousness, when “ all things felt sweet were felt sweet overmuch ” ; represented by certain aspects of the early dramas, *The Queen Mother* and *Rosamond* ; and by such poems as “ A Ballad of Life ” and “ A Ballad of Death ” in *Poems and Ballads*. And this we shall show to be largely governed by the Elizabethan Marlowe, and by the Pre-Raphaelites generally.

(2) The mood of “ over-loving,” evident in *Rosamond*, and also in such poems as “ *Laus Veneris* ” and “ *The Triumph of Time*, ” which are concerned with a common character (in one case described as a knight, in the other as a lover) who is foiled and weary and beginning to demand the refuge of “ violent delights.” And this we shall show in the representative instance of “ *Laus Veneris* ” to derive from Morris.

(3) The mood in which such a man—in Swinburne’s description “ foiled in love and weary of loving ”—seeks “ refuge in those violent delights that have violent ends ” ; represented by such a poem as “ *Dolores*, ” the first member of the great trilogy which gives lasting and moral greatness to *Poems and Ballads*. And this we shall know to be reminiscent chiefly of Rossetti and of Baudelaire.

(4) The ensuing mood of satiety and languor, of “ hunger and thirst after the perfect sleep, ” explicit in “ *Rococo* ” and “ *The Garden of*

CHAPTER
V.

Proserpine," and in the latter and more important instance clearly deriving in some not unimportant degree from Christina Rossetti.

(5) The mood of emergence, aspiration, new and firm desire, evident in the supreme lament for Landor ; evident also in the third and last great member of the trilogy with its desire and search after "the goddess that redeems." And in this case, as in that of the memorial poem just mentioned, the mood is attributable to the spiritual comradeship, now more perfectly realised (for Swinburne must have made his pilgrimage about this time) with his hero.

First, however, before the influences, comes the man, Swinburne. And he was endowed with at least two of the qualifications for poetry, which popular judgment has converted to its own good uses from Milton's comment that poetry is more simple, sensuous, and passionate than logic : he was sensuous and passionate. Writing of his ancestors, his father the admiral, his grandfather Sir John, and an ancestress who bore thirty children, he adds : "I think you will allow that when this race chose at last to produce a poet, it would have been at least remarkable if he had been content to write nothing but hymns and idylls for clergymen and young ladies to read out in chapels and drawing-rooms" (111).

It is no wonder that a poet so constituted, coming when he did, should have turned to the masters that he sought. England, in the 'sixties, was as much under the influence of the

Wordsworthian school as of any other. For instance, it was complained of Swinburne that “of enlarged *meditation*, the note of the highest poetry,” there is no trace in him! (This, after 1866.) Assuredly he possessed little of it. He had to see life and space and adventure. So he set himself upon the shores of the Elizabethans, and before leaving Eton “had plunged (he says) as deep as a boy could dive into the line of literature” (112) which was always his favourite. This interest in the Elizabethans increased during his Oxford days, and first showed itself in his contribution to *Undergraduate Papers*, December 1857, on Marlowe and Webster, the first paper entering into praise of the gorgeous rhythms of *Hero and Leander* and its adequate treatment of the physical aspect of love.

LANDOR'S *Hellenics*

It is perhaps at this time that Swinburne first came to appreciate Landor's poetry, or a section of it, thoroughly—a time when knowing it at all meant knowing what was practically the unique contemporary literary work in which the sexual force was not bowdlerised out of existence, and in which human love was not carried on as a bodiless (and sometimes spiritless) spirituality. “His lifelong attitude to Landor,” writes Mr. Gosse, “was founded on a copy of the *Hellenics*” (113). It had begun as early as 1853, and throughout its development remained true to this foundation. The effect upon him, as soon as he was old enough to understand more

CHAPTER

V.

than the literary beauty of these poems, can readily be imagined. The *Hellenics* is the most individual of Landor's works, the one whose face is most averse from the concerns of his time in art or morality or daily conversation, and most set in contemplation of the statuesque simplicity and clarity in Greek life. Here is a society where sex plays so easy and unreflecting a part that it almost loses social significance, impediment to its free operation being purely a personal matter, sanction therefor being enjoined by oracle as for "the highest law of God." Life is seen clearly, and seen whole: now on the summit of august Ida where Achilles and Helena converse of happier days; now in certain gardens, *not above the base* of Helicon, where Lysander, Alcanor, and Phanoë play under the shadow of the "dark garden god," garlanded season after season with leaves or flowers or fruit; now in deep valleys where Dryope, tending her flocks one day, hears suddenly:

Burst forth the sound of horn and pipe, and clash
 Of cymbal rattling from uplifted palms;
 Dryad and Hamadryad, wild with joy,

(vii. 429)

and knows before nightfall the Apollonian serpent gleaming upon maiden limbs like a shower of Danaën gold. Here too Alciphron and Leucippe, Damoetas and Ida, or Laon and Dora prepare and consummate gentle loves, falling only a little short of the beauty of that perfect pastoral love of Daphnis and the Maiden which the grace of Theocritus has crowned. Here the minstrel of English birth has chanted to Sicilian pipes and

Sicilian lyres the story of “ Pan ever-to-be-re-^{CHAPTER}
membered and Pitys, and of the divine Ham-^{V.}
dryad whom a mortal loved ” (114).

He has chanted other things also ; higher, perhaps, and graver—of freedom and tyranny and the gods. *The Queen Mother* has already been shown (in a previous chapter) to bear witness of them or of their like in various other of Landor’s works, so that they need not concern us again here. But these first are the more important. Accepting the *Hellenics* Swinburne accepted them, and the theme of physical love in his early work derives in some small way from this source. The Landorism of the *Hellenics* becomes a tributary as it were to the Elizabethan current which was then sweeping him on.

ELIZABETHAN INFLUENCE

It was his first if not his strongest ambition, he writes, “ to do something worth doing, and not utterly unworthy of a young countryman of Marlowe the teacher and Webster the pupil of Shakespeare. . . . And my first book, written while yet under academic or tutorial authority, bore evidence of that ambition in every line ” (115). *Rosamond*, the slighter if not the earlier of the two early dramas, may be set aside for the present. *The Queen Mother* is a fitter exposition of his ambition. The theme is Marlovian, in general circumstances at least, which is about as much comparison as the “ patched and distorted ” text of *The Massacre at Paris* (Marlowe’s drama on the same theme) will allow. The conception

CHAPTER
V. is also like Marlowe's in so far as the drama is devoted to the exposition of one overwhelming character who has her will if not her way upon all who may serve or who do oppose her. The treatment is rather Websterian, not in effectiveness (for few write with hard glare of lightning on a field of night) but in intent : such an intent as at least the opening scene of *The White Devil* shows to be deliberate, to give the picture of a whole time in accordance with which certain characters act. Obvious sympathy with Elizabethan use is also plain in a certain liberality in syntax shown in such combinations as : "funeral privacy of rite"; "the shallowness of thin occasions"; "make smooth my name in patient reputation of good men."

Then, in addition to these, and more important for notice here, is the eager attention given to the physical aspect of love. This was natural in any picture of Catherine's Court that pretended to bear the least resemblance to the original. It was also to be expected from a young follower of Marlowe who, in *Undergraduate Papers*, had praised the "rapid rhythm and gorgeous luxuries of *Hero and Leander*," and the poet who "did justice once for all to that much misused and belied thing, the purely sensuous and outward side of love." It is detailed and realistic, and sometimes violent; but it is clean. In particular it is innocent of that irremediable *saleté* which infects even the air of the later Elizabethan drama. And it is mellowed by combination with every other delicate sensuous interest proper to a society that, after all, was

not without vestiges of culture. There is song, ^{CHAPTER} _{V.} touched with sadness, for

L'amour passe et fait bien souffrir ;

and there is scent of spice and orris root, soft fair skin, gracious curve of lip or eyelid or nostril, long luxurious hair—but *sensed for art's sake*, and not all for the mere pleasure of sensing, caught up and held as by a painter's instinct, awaiting the canvas ; as when Charles says to Denise :

You have the eyes men choose to paint, you know ;
And just that soft turn in the little throat
And bluish colour in the lower lid
They make saints with.

(ii. 1) (116).

It is here that the tone and interest of the work most obviously separate themselves from the Elizabethans, and declare for alliance with the group of artists with whom Swinburne was from this time on for a number of years a professional and personal associate. These were, of course, the Pre-Raphaelites. And to one of them, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *The Queen Mother and Rosamond* is dedicated.

PRE-RAPHAELITE INFLUENCE

The Elizabethan sensuous delight is comparatively simple ; not so the Pre-Raphaelite : it becomes a problem—the problem with which Denise and Rosamond find themselves confronted ; in the latter's phrase, “ the secret riddle and pure sense of flesh.”

Denise answers it in her own way, finding

WINBURNE AND LANDOR

the flesh "the holy raiment of the soul," yet it is only when she receives her death wound as she tries too late to warn the Huguenots of the plot against them that she feels herself "near the heart of quiet," and her spirit light and sweet and "evened with what it was"; only in death that she finds recompense for the harsh exactions of the life of sense, and in martyrdom that the flesh is made evidence of things lasting as well as glad.

The drama *Rosamond* exists almost wholly by right of its interpretation of this same dilemma of the flesh. Hardly a drama at all, it is chiefly the exposition of a sensuous mood. She that has "roses in her name" feels herself

Part of the perfect witness for the world
How good it is. . . .

Giving herself over as mistress to King Henry, putting off honour and respect, unclothing the soul "of all soft raiment coloured custom weaves," she feels herself, and all like her, loved of God better than those "bitter fools whom ignorance makes clean."

Constance. It may be true,
I know not; only to stay maiden-souled
Seems worthier to me.

Rosamond. Doth it so? Ah you
That tie the spirit closer to the flesh
To keep both sweet, it seems again to me
You kill the gracious secret of it and mar
The wholesome heaven with scent of ruined things
That breed mere flies for issue. Ay, and love
That makes the daily flesh an altar cup
To carry tears, and rarest blood within,
And touch pained lips with feast of sacrament—
So sweet it is, God made it sweet . . . (117)

“ TOO MUCH LOVE OF LIVIN”

sweeter and bitterer than all things, greater than fear or change. Yet hanging athirst between Love's hands, crying “ sweet and so sweet,” she finds her eyes “ possessed with rigorous prophecy of tears.”

Poems and Ballads

It is no step at all from this contemplation of the life of the senses, and this sob-choked avowal that physical love has inherent worth, to the earlier part of *Poems and Ballads*; for the idea and conclusion of “ *Laus Veneris* ” is one and the same with this, and the situation and emotion of various other poems merely a variation of it. They know few simple delights, having too often “ found or felt out (the) way to the debatable land where simple and tender pleasures become complex and cruel ” (118), there to faint from long continuance asking, like the Leper’s lover of his dead mistress, the secret of it all :

I am grown blind with all these things ;
It may be now she hath in sight
Some better knowledge ; still there clings
The old question : Will not God do right ?

But before these poems can be really understood, it is necessary to know something of the conditions under which they were written, to realise something of the aims and interests of the self-styled Pre-Raphaelite artists in whose intimate association Swinburne remained during their composition.

To use a now trite phrase, the Pre-Raphaelites aimed at bringing about a “ renaissance of

wonder." Certain facts in the world which were being observed too distantly or too meekly were to be brought close again. They should be shown to be not only facts, but subjective intimate facts. Such was beauty, and such was love.

Beauty was to be brought physically close. The actual body was to be surrounded by it so that the two should be complementary. So, for instance, Morris has in his exquisite song from *The Hill of Venus* :

The bee-beset ripe-seeded grass
Through which thy fine limbs first did pass ;
The purple-dusted butterfly
First blown against thy quivering thigh,
The first red rose that touched thy side.

Furthermore it was to be present very strongly in sense perception : as something not to be avoided or slighted ; imperious, a sovereign and a piercing delight. This again Morris illustrates, as in *The Defence of Guenevere* :

I was half mad with beauty on that day,
And went without my ladies all alone
In a quiet garden walled round every way ;

I was right joyful of that wall of stone
That shut the flowers and trees up with the sky
And trebled all the beauty.

Both of these devices were plain for Swinburne's notice ; and he imitated both of them. He too would concern himself much with the beautiful. And in the beginning he was able to do it joyfully. In such a poem as "At Eleusis" he holds good the visible aspect of things : "All fair women having rings of gold on

hand or hair,” “ deep smooth pitchers of pure ~~CHAPTER~~
brass ” dipped

Under the bubbled wells, till each round lip
Stooped with loose gurgle of waters incoming;

Spring, and the “ shapes of grass and tender
corn ”; the “ bright body of fair Persephone ”
forced by Hades

Out of pure grass, where she lying down, red flowers
Made their sharp little shadows on her sides,
Pale heat, pale colour on pale maiden flesh.

All this is of course imitative, the last being the counterpart of the passage quoted from Morris and of others that might be quoted from his 1858 volume. Even the “ brazen pitchers in the bubbled wells ” are borrowed, as from that sonnet of Rossetti’s on Giorgione’s “ Venetian Pastoral ” which Swinburne described as “ the most utterly delightful ” to him of all Rossetti’s poems on pictures :

Water, for anguish of the solstice :—nay,
But dip the vessel slowly,—nay, but lean
And hark how at its verge the wave sighs in
Reluctant. . . .

On this sonnet he comments : “ In the verse as on the canvas there is the breathless breath of overmuch delight, the passion of over-running pleasure which quivers and aches on the very edge of heavenly tears—‘ tears of perfect moan,’ for excess of unfathomable pleasure and burden of inexpressible things only to be borne by gods in heaven ; the sweet and sovereign oppression of absolute beauty and the nakedness of burning life ” (119).

CHAPTER

V.

The comment on the sonnet is an indication of his own mood, as that develops through the *Poems and Ballads*. He begins with simple joy in beauty, but soon he finds out his way to the “debatable land where simple and tender pleasures become complex and cruel.” Beauty ceases to be merely imperious, as in Morris or Rossetti: the sovereign delight becomes the sovereign oppression. Again and again he complains passionately against the tyrannous demand it makes upon senses already called upon too often and too much :

Alas thy beauty ! for thy mouth's sweet sake
 My soul is bitter to me. . . .
 (“Laus Veneris,” 37.)

The same protest is made in *Rosamond* and *The Masque of Queen Bersabe* and the “Ballad of Life.” In this latter poem the technique deserves attention, as suggesting the source of some of the ideas: the ballad or ballata form, the elaborate personifying and making human of the ballad itself—

Forth, ballad, and take roses in both arms,

the strange use of abstracts—“soft raiment out of woven sighs” and the like. All of these find exact parallels in Pre-Raphaelite use, as in the Envoi to *The Earthly Paradise*, where the “Book” is sent to greet Chaucer; or, the source of it all, the numerous ditties and ballatas of Rossetti’s *Early Italian Poets*. But the sovereign oppressiveness and cruelty of beauty is an idea and emotion developed far beyond their use.

Undoubtedly they stood sponsor at its birth, CHAPTER
V. but its growth is far beyond them.

The reason is not far to seek. Beauty for them was a medium of truth that brought spiritual satisfaction. For him it was an end in itself. Even at this early date they stood for a principle of thought and feeling that was beyond him. We may be allowed to call it mysticism even though its manifestation in the various members of the school is too varied to be defined strictly. Rossetti, for instance, though he may not have been ready at this time to express the creed of “ Heart’s Compass,”

Sometimes thou seem’st not as thy self alone,
But as the meaning of all things that are,

was even then making for himself that glass, as it were, of woman’s form and feature, through which he came later so fixedly to view reality. But this vision was his alone. Swinburne did not share it—and the medium, the “ glass darkly ” he could share, left him distressed.

This *personalising* of beauty was but one Pre-Raphaelite aim. The personalising of love was another. It meant emphasising its physical and outward aspect; and naturally it found favour in the eyes of the young disciple of Marlowe. It found favour also in the eyes of his friend George Meredith, who may be allowed to describe the whole situation as he viewed it. In 1861 he saw Leighton’s “ Paolo and Francesca ” at the Academy (and Leighton, in this connection, may surely qualify as Pre-Raphaelite without contradiction), “ painted just as the

CHAPTER V.
book has dropped, and they are in no state to read more." He wrote to a friend about it : " I greatly admire it. I think it the sole English picture exhibiting passion that I have seen " (120). He was soon to see more of the same sort, and poems that were as distinct from the general mode of the day, for within a few months of the date of this letter he began a once-a-week occupancy of Rossetti's house in Chelsea where Swinburne was also lodging. The subject was one of Rossetti's favourites at the time : in 1855 he had painted the diptych " *Paolo and Francesca* " (121) (sold at once to Ruskin), the kissing lovers on one side, the embracing souls in hell on the other ; in 1861 he sold a copy of the first panel of an elaborated version, and completed this version itself in 1862.

INFLUENCE OF BURNE-JONES AND MORRIS

Paolo and Francesca as a theme was but one sign of the renaissance of passion. Another is the Tannhäuser legend, treated by Morris in *The Hill of Venus* (which first took form early in the 'sixties, though it was not completed until late in the decade) ; by Burne-Jones in his memorable painting " *Laus Veneris* " (1873–1878) which had been anticipated even before 1866, seeing that in that year he added twenty designs for *The Hill of Venus* to the " *Earthly Paradise* " series ; and by Swinburne in his still more memorable poem of the same title.

The subject must have been set astir among

“ TOO MUCH LOVE OF LIVING ” 101

them by echoes from Wagner's perversion of it ^{CHAPTER} in *Tannhäuser*, coming, if not direct, certainly through criticisms of the opera, like the luminous interpretation of it by Baudelaire that reached Swinburne just after he had completed his poem ; or through the poem “ *Tannhäuser* ” (1861) by Neville Temple (Julian Fane) and Edward Trevor (Edward Robert Bulwer-Lytton) which is, by confession, a Tennysonian idyll on Wagner's theme. The latter was precisely the sort of misconception that could be counted upon to drive the Pre-Raphaelites in the opposite direction. Meredith here again happily expresses sentiments that may be looked upon as a common possession of the school. Writing to a friend who upheld a contrary opinion, he says : “ I don't agree with you that they have brought Venus sensibly to the reader at all, tho' it's fair to say that with Elizabeth it is less so than Venus. The former is a prim good miss, a shrew when in a passion ; she quite justifies (to me) *Tannhäuser*'s choice of the *dear voluptuous Goddess whom they call such naughty names, and who, I begin to think, is the favourite daughter of Mother Earth* ” (122).

Swinburne, it is necessary to remark, was the only one of the group for whom she remained almost constantly terrible. For Burne-Jones she was a queen to love ; for Morris a queen to praise, and only upon second thought, as it were, to shun. Neither one of them attempts to picture the hopelessness of the days after the knight's return to Venusburg. This, says Morris in his poem, it passes the powers of man to describe. Swin-

CHAPTER V. burne alone pictured the tense agonies, sterile joys, and stifling airs of Horsel.

Yet, for all the difference between the Burne-Jones-Morris treatment of this subject and Swinburne's in "Laus Veneris," their occupation with the same theme must have been some incentive for him. And, when all is said, Morris knew how to develop passion to the heat almost of Horsel, to give it utterance almost in the delirious speech of Swinburne's knight, even though, in the poem completed after Swinburne's, he chose to avoid doing so. Indeed, it is no more than mild hyperbole to say that he dominates the first large mood of Swinburne's *Poems and Ballads*. There are numerous passages in his 1858 poems that had more than a suggestion for any follower, most of all for one who many years later was able to say, referring to the "King Arthur's Tomb" of this collection: "I have not read the poem for years, I have not the book at hand, and I cite from memory; but I think it would be safe to swear to the accuracy of my citation. Such verses are not forgettable" (123).

No more was the whole poem forgettable. Swinburne recalls it with a precision which is proof positive of the tremendous appeal it must have made to him at the time of his first knowledge of it. The structure, he admits, is loose: "But where among other and older poets of his time and country is one comparable for perception and expression of tragic truth, of subtle and noble, terrible and piteous things? Where a touch of passion at once so broad and so sure? The

figures here given have the blood and breath, the ^{CHAPTER} V. shape and step of life ; they can move and suffer ; their repentance is as real as their desire ; their shame lies as deep as their love. They are at once remorseful for the sin and regretful of the pleasure that is past" (124). He recalls again how Guenevere maddens herself and Launcelot "with wild words of reproach and remorse, abhorrence and attraction, her sharp and sudden memory of old sights and sounds and splendid irrevocable days" of the "solitary sound of birds singing in her gardens, while in the lists the noise went on of spears and shouts telling which knight of them all rode here or there ; the crying of ladies' names as men and horses clashed one against another, names that bit like the steel they impelled to its mark."

Now, obviously, "Laus Veneris" is a greater poem than this of Morris' ; more terribly conceived, better integrated in its parts, so that the whole form and body of it is as fair and perfect as that fairest of Christ's knights with the regret and defiance of whose apostasy it glows and subsides and is mad. But, in the description given of "King Arthur's Tomb," read for the name of Guenevere that of this Knight of Horsel, and the description will as perfectly suit the later and the greater poem as it does the earlier. Disregard the sex of the speakers in the two poems and the close parallelism of the two is patent. Swinburne has done vastly more than take over the passion and expression of Guenevere —but he has done this ; and his knight speaks with her very accent :

SWINBURNE AND LANDOR

CHAPTER V.

Guenevere. Dost thou reck
That I am beautiful, Lord, even as you
 And your dear mother ? Why did I forget
You were so beautiful, and good and true,
 That you loved me so, Guenevere ? O yet

If even I go to hell, I cannot choose
 But love you, Christ, yea, though I cannot keep
From loving Launcelot ; . . .

The latter part of this is the exact description of the situation in “ *Laus Veneris*,” for the knight cannot keep from loving Christ nor yet dethrone the memory of his straight keen days, even in the midst of the hell to which his love of Venus has taken him :

Alas, Lord, surely thou art great and fair.
But lo, her wonderfully woven hair !

She is right fair ; what hath she done to thee ?
Nay, fair Lord Christ, lift up thine eyes and see ;
 Had now thy mother such a lip—like this ?
Thou knowest how sweet a thing it is to me.

Once and again he reverts to the virile joys of the old “ clean great time of goodly fight,” agleam with fair swords and “ rows of beautiful mailed men,” and recalls amidst the stifling heat of Horsel the open sweetness of fields and seas :

Ah yet would God this flesh of mine might be
Where airs might wash and long leaves cover me,
 Where tides of grass break into foam of flowers,
Or where the wind’s feet shine along the sea.

This last is, perhaps, a reminiscence and perfection of one of the few at all memorable details in the Fane-Bulwer-Lytton poem, where the victims of Venus are described as first revelling in sensual enjoyment, and then sickening until

... their lips,
Spurning the reeky pasture, yearn for draughts
Of rock rebounding rills, their eyes for sight
Of heaven, their limbs for length of dewy grass.

Perhaps such an allusion is inherent. Morris at least uses the same device, though less strikingly (except in a cancelled fragment of “The Hill of Venus”) (125), as in the “Defence of Guenevere” or “Rapunzel,” in addition to the use of “old sights and sounds and splendid irrevocable days” in “King Arthur’s Tomb,” which Swinburne describes, and whose fashion, if not whose manner, he follows even here. But it must be noticed that the need for it far exceeds the need in Morris, for the poet of “Laus Veneris” has pushed passion even beyond the swooning borderland that Launcelot and Guenevere traverse, to the harsh extreme edge, washed round by perpetual tears.

The mood in which “Laus Veneris” closes (and also another famous poem of this collection, written probably about the same time, “The Triumph of Time”) augured a certain not altogether enviable progression for the poet who was (even dramatically) possessed by it. Here was a conception of a man foiled of love and weary of loving who in the first case willed to persist in it until God’s trumpets be loosened over land and sea; and in the second, “The Triumph of Time,” reached out to find some harsh and destroying sin as relief from it. The natural development was that he should be allowed to find this or something like it.

And this is done in one of the wildest pieces in *Poems and Ballads*, “Dolores.” Fortunately

CHAPTER

V.

Swinburne's own explanation of it is forthcoming.

“I have striven here,” he says in his *Notes on Poems and Reviews*, 1866, “to express that transient state of spirit through which a man may be supposed to pass, foiled in love and weary of loving, but not yet in sight of rest, seeking refuge in those ‘violent delights’ that have ‘violent ends,’ in frank and fierce sensualities that at least profess to be no more than they are.”

INFLUENCE OF ROSSETTI AND BAUDELAIRE

The harsh satisfactions, the “fugitive things not good to treasure” of the two earlier poems, he here deifies and worships. The dissolving and destroying sin which they reach out for, he visualises and embraces as Dolores, our Lady of Pain. The concept is perhaps awful enough to be *sui generis*. But *sui generis* it is not. Few of Swinburne's ideas are. And a glance at two of Rossetti's poems, which he chooses for especial panegyric in his essay on that poet, should discover in part at least the secret of its derivation. These two are “The Burden of Nineveh” and “Jenny.”

“The Burden of Nineveh” Swinburne ranks as perhaps the greatest of Rossetti's poems. It is a meditation before the stone bulk of a Ninevehian bull, then newly arrived at a London museum; and in it the poet, using the thing as a symbol, visualises pagan rites and civilisations over which it had held lordship. He then explores the future, and imagines the advent in long ruined London of some antipodean explorer—

Who, finding in this desert place
This form, shall hold us for some race
That walked not in Christ's lowly ways,
But bowed its pride and vowed its praise
Unto the god of Nineveh.

The smile rose first—anon drew nigh
The thought. . . . Those heavy wings spread high
So sure of flight, which do not fly ;
That set gaze never on the sky ;
Those scriptured flanks it cannot see ;
Its crown a brow-contracting load ;
Its planted feet which trust the sod. . . .
(So grew the image as I trod)—
O Nineveh, was this thy God,—
Thine also, mighty Nineveh ?

" What more august and strenuous passion of thought," Swinburne asks, " was ever clothed in purple of more imperial speech than consummates this poem ? . . . the thinker comes to find in it indeed the ' God of this world,' and no dead idol, but a living deity and ever present strength ; having wings, but not to fly with ; and eyes, but not to look up with . . . brow-bound with a royal sign, of oppression only and contraction " (126).

The passages from the essay and the poem are given almost in full, that they may be compared, and that it may be apparent how Swinburne has hardened and overstated what is, taken with the foregoing stanza on the race—

That walked not in Christ's lowly ways,
most forceful and yet delicate criticism. From the midst of Rossetti's subtlety he reaches out after Blake's revolutionism, and identifies his own concept of the Ninevehan bull with Blake's " Urizen, the god of this world."

SWINBURNE AND LANDOR

~~CHAPTER~~ V. The next poem, "Jenny," is something of a corollary of "Nineveh." Jenny is made the medium through which the poet coldly, dispassionately, almost cruelly gazes at such "reality" as she may represent :

You know not what a book you seem
Half read by lightning in a dream !

Yet, Jenny, looking long at you,
The woman almost fades from view.
A cipher of man's changeless sum
Of lust, past, present, and to come
Is left. A riddle that one shrinks
To challenge from the scornful sphinx.

Like a toad within a stone
Seated while time crumbles on ;
Which sits there since the earth was cursed
For man's transgression at the first ;

Aye, and shall not be driven out
Till that which shuts him round about
Break at the very master's stroke.
Even so within this world is Lust.

And this Swinburne describes as the "mighty fancy so grandly cast in words, of lust, alone, aloof, immortal, immovable, outside of death in the darkness of things everlasting ; self secluded in absorption of its own desire, and walled up from love or light as a toad in its stone wrapping" (127). But he does more than describe it. With a display of the same opulent enthusiasm which raises the passage just quoted so much above bare truth to Rossetti's, he embodies this conception of vice, with a change only of non-essentials, in his great poem "Dolores" which has already been described.

TOO MUCH LOVE OF LIVING" 11

Admittedly "Dolores" is antipodal in mood CHAPTER
V. to Rossetti's poem. "Jenny" is calm, without any great sense of grief or of retribution. "Dolores" is a panegyric and litany to Our Lady of Pain. Its mood is that of "the tragic lyrist," Baudelaire (128), as in the poem "Les Femmes Damnées," where (Swinburne records) "the side of their passion kept before us is an infinite perverse refinement, an infinite reverse aspiration, the end of which things is death." But the fundamental concept is the same as Rossetti's, the all-but-immortality of lust; and it is only in the tremendous development and importance given to this idea that "Dolores" in the first instance differentiates itself from the concept of the poet who was at least one of its inspirers.

This violence demands a reaction. It is a passion too intense to last. And the reaction comes in the perfect second member of the trilogy of which "Dolores" is the first, "The Garden of Proserpine."

The mood typified by this poem is "that brief total pause of passion and of thought when the spirit, without fear or hope of good things or evil, hungers and thirsts only after the perfect sleep."

Inevitable as they are in sequence from "Dolores," even this mood and poem have a literary ancestry.

INFLUENCE OF CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

Now we turn to the second member of the trilogy. And, as for the preceding member of the trilogy it was possible to show Pre-Raphaelite

influence, descending through Rossetti; as for the preparatory member, if we may call "Laus Veneris," so, it was possible to show their influence coming through Morris and Burne-Jones; so also here it is possible to show their influence, transmitted by "the sainted and secluded" author of such poems as "Looking Forward," "Rest," and "Dream Land," Christina Rossetti.

It is a pause not only of the passion of love, but of all the severe and extreme life of the senses of which "Laus Veneris" and the poems it represents are so capable witnesses. That wild life has stormed itself out, and the old hard excitements are become a burden—the burden of fair women and sweet speeches and bright colours and much gladness, as they are told in "The Ballad of Burdens." And thereupon ensues a longing for death.

With all of these modifications of the mood of satiety Christina Rossetti is in sympathy. She is at one with The Preacher in voicing the melancholy of youth. "The Whole Head is Sick and the Whole Heart is Faint" is the heavy title of one of her laments for its hopelessness.

Woe for the young who say that life is long,
 Who turn from the sunrising to the west,
 Who feel no pleasure and can find no rest,
 Who in the morning sigh for evening song.
 Their hearts, weary because of this world's wrong,
 Yearn with a thousand longings unexprest.

They say, "The peace of heaven is placed too high
 And this earth changeth and is perishing."

It is needless to say that this mood is characteristic of Christina Rossetti's poetry. The sonnet

quoted was written in December 1847 ; later work ^{CHAPTER} ^{V.} shows the same mood connected with all stages of life. It is not the only, but it is the dominant chord throughout her whole music ; and by means of it her song rises perhaps five or six times into complete beauty, and once into the absolute perfection of spiritual and technical maturity, the “ great new year hymn ” as Swinburne calls it, “ Passing away, saith the world, passing away ” (129).

This sacred song is above Swinburne’s acceptance, being withdrawn into its own serene heaven. But such poems as her “ Vanity of Vanities ” (1847), or “ Looking Forward ” (1849), or “ Beauty is Vain ” (Jan. 1864), are much more in accord with his poetry, with “ A Ballad of Burdens ” for example ; and her little “ Dream Land ” (1849) is surely not so slight, being beautiful, as to have failed of influence on the expression of his world-weariness and satiety, “ The Garden of Proserpine.”

(From “ The Garden of Proserpine ”)

Here where the world is quiet,
Here where all trouble seems
Dead, winds and spent waves riot
In doubtful dreams of dreams ;
I watch the green field growing,
For reaping folk and sowing,
For harvest time and mowing,
A sleepy world of streams.

Nor star nor sun shall waken,
Nor any change of light,
Nor sound of waters shaken
Nor any sound or sight ;
Nor wintry winds nor vernal,
Nor days nor things diurnal ;
Only the sleep eternal
In an eternal night.

(From “ Dream Land ”)

She left the rosy morn,
She left the fields of corn,
For twilight cold and lorn
And water springs.
Through sleep, as through a veil,
She sees the sky look pale
And hears the nightingale
That sadly sings.

Rest, rest, a perfect rest
Shed over brow and breast ;
Her face is towards the west,
The purple land.
She cannot see the grain
Ripening on hill or plain ;
She cannot feel the rain
Upon her hand.

Here then, in this dreamless peace, the themes of eager sensuousness that arose in *The Queen Mother and Rosamond* and sometimes rioted in *Poems and Ballads* find consummation. But with these, finding the same end and rest, are the moods of *Chastelard*, for this most beautiful member of the Mary Stuart trilogy is the natural development of the early dramas (Holyrood being the natural consequence of the Louvre, as Mary's character is of the training she had at the hands of the Queen Mother) and the counterpart of many of the shorter poems. Mary is Faustine, and looks at times "as though she stood and saw men slain to make her game and laughter" (Act IV. 1); she is Aholibah, and the type of all the beautiful luxurious queens of the *Masque of Queen Bersabe*, as though reminiscent of whose fate she answers Chastelard :

Ah ! my sweet fool
Think you, when God will ruin me for my sin
My face of colour shall prevail me much
With him, so soften the tooth'd iron's edge
To save my throat a scar ?

She is Venus Pandemos who holds her lover in his own despite in another Horsel ; from whom death only can liberate him :

Ah ! fair love,
Fair fearful Venus made of deadly foam,
I shall escape you somehow with my death—
Your splendid supple body and mouth on fire
And Paphian breath that bites the lips like heat.

But above and beyond all this, she is Mary—Queen ; a strange subtle unifying power that articulates into beauty many harsh and extreme

things, and brings them beneath the sway of an ideal justice also, for Holyrood looks forward to Fotheringay, and Chastelard's death prepares Mary's own.

CHAPTER
V.

RELATIONSHIP WITH LANDOR

It must be noted that even such an artistic solution of the erotic theme is not necessarily satisfying morally, being merely negative. That loving life overmuch brings death is a good thing to know, but as a plan for life's conduct it is fatally incomplete. Some positive element is needed, and cried for ; something worthier than the poppied peace of “The Garden of Proserpine,” “that brief total pause of passion and of thought, when the spirit, without fear or hope of good things or evil, hungers and thirsts after the perfect sleep.” The cry comes in “Hesperia,” the concluding poem of the great trilogy : the goddess is half seen, but wholly desired. Swinburne himself thus describes the significance of the poem :

Here between moonrise and sunset lives the love that is gentle and faithful, neither giving too much—nor asking—a bride rather than a mistress, a sister rather than a bride. But not at once, or not for ever can the past be killed and buried ; hither also the huntress follows her flying prey, wounded and weakened, still fresh from the fangs of passion ; the cruel hands, the amorous eyes that glitter and allure. *Qui a bu, boira* ; the feet are drawn back toward the ancient ways. Only by lifelong flight side by side with the goddess that redeems shall her slave of old escape from the goddess

CHAPTER that consumes, if even thus one may be saved, even thus
V. distance the blood-hounds.

Read as the idealised record of a divine passion for a woman, "a bride rather than a mistress, a sister rather than a bride," the poem is not without high significance. But, so read, it is without the highest. This can be realised only by accepting it as an appeal to a veritable "goddess of deliverance," in whom are gathered up all high hope, all noble memory, all sustaining and redeeming power. These are, indeed, gathered and bound as glories around the brows of the real experience in the midst of the poem; but they are more than she, and she is less than they. **It is in a wind**

. . . that blows from the region of stories,
Blows with a perfume of songs and of memories beloved
from a boy,

that he sees her :

For thee, in the stream of the deep tide-wind blowing in with
the water,

Thee I behold as a bird borne in with the wind from the
west.

And yet a little while and he sees her no more, and
cries for her return :

From the beautiful infinite west, from the happy memorial
places,

Full of the stately repose and the lordly delight of the dead,
Where the fortunate islands are lit with the light of ineffable
faces,

And the sound of a sea without wind is about them, and
sunset is red,

Come back to redeem and release me from love that recalls
and represses.

“ TOO MUCH LOVE OF LIVING ”

With this should be compared a passage from *Atalanta in Calydon*, describing “ the sweet wise death of old men honourable ” who pass

To the clear seat and remote throne of souls,
Lands undiscoverable in the unheard-of west,
Round which the strong stream of a sacred sea
Rolls without wind forever ;

and also a passage from a poem in the same volume as “ *Hesperia* ” :

Not with disdain of days that were
Look earthward now ;
Let dreams revive the reverend hair,
The imperial brow ;

Come back in sleep, for in the life
Where thou art not
We find none like thee. Time and strife
And the world’s lot

Move thee no more ; but love at least
And reverent heart
May move thee, royal and released
Soul that thou art.

This last is from the Lament “ *In Memory of Walter Savage Landor* ” ; the passage from *Atalanta* is part of a drama dedicated as a whole to Landor, and part of a section of the drama especially devoted to him (as the next chapter will make plain). The lines from “ *Hesperia* ” are probably synchronous with the other passages, and are certainly similar in appeal to those in the Lament. Perhaps it would be too much to say that this similarity is a matter of conscious intention. In all likelihood it is accidental, a matter of fulness of heart rather than of clearness of thinking. The “ goddess that redeems ” may

CHAPTER V. not actually be that divinity whose service Landor professes through his *Coretheus* :

I loved imprudently ; yet throughout life
 Those arts I cherished that lead youth aright
 And strengthen manhood and adorn old age,
 (vii. 485)

for which service Swinburne loved him ; she may not be, deliberately, the Landorian goddess of Liberty, whom Swinburne had begun to serve in *The Queen Mother*, whom he was now beginning to serve again. But if they are not identical, the Hesperian surely gleams with borrowed or reflected glory. About the time of the composition of both of these appeals Swinburne was undergoing an emotional change. The erotic theme was palling. He was seeking an ideal that should redeem and release him from oppressive love. He found it in full a little later on, as the chapter on *Songs before Sunrise* will show in detail. But even at this time he was finding it. And we can only record the fact that the relationship with Landor seems to have been one of the paths to its discovery. It is clearly a Landorian ideal in the Lament. It may very well be a flower of the same stock in "Hesperia." And this is not mere deduction. Practically it is Swinburne's comment upon the significance of Landor in the termination of his erotic period and the induction of another, happier and nobler.

In "Thalassius" and in the Prelude to *Songs before Sunrise* he describes an orgiastic period from which release is secured by the assertion of strength fed upon Landor's thought. Both of these descriptions plainly apply to the particu-

lar mood of *Poems and Ballads* (and it must be remembered that there are other and happier) treated in this chapter—the mood of overmuch sensuousness and the deification of vice :

We too have tracked by star-proof trees
The tempest of the Thyiades,
 Scare the loud night on hills that hid
 The blood-feasts of the Bassarid ;
Heard their song's iron cadences
 Fright the wolf hungering from the kid,
 Outroar the lion-throated seas,
 Outchide the north-wind if it chid,
 And hush the torrent-tongued ravines
 With thunders of their tambourines.

Since, then, the period of peril is the same in action (that is in *Poems and Ballads* and *Chastelard*) as in the descriptions, we are forced to conclude that the medium of deliverance is also one : the one described, the one that stands out in *Poems and Ballads* and in *Atalanta*—Landor stimulating his disciple to a manlier song.

But now attention must be given to that angry protest against “ oppressive heaven ” which gathers vehemence throughout *Poems and Ballads*, and comes to its climax in *Atalanta in Calydon*. “ Dolores,” indeed, gives way to the glorious parados, and “ dim goddesses of fiery fame ” to virgin Artemis. The blare of Corybantine brass, “ rhymes that smite on the ear like cymbals,” softens to the chime of smitten silver, and the feet turn from the paths of their old pursuit. But the voice of fierce praise rises to fiercer denunciation.

This denunciation or “ blasphemy ” (as some

CHAPTER V. called it in the 'sixties) may be the final and fateful fruit of the "too much love of living" with which this chapter has dealt, just as Sappho's protest in "Anactoria" is "the first outcome of foiled and fruitless passion recoiling on itself": or it be one of the "oppressions" that have come upon the head of the genius of these poems who has wandered in far places—by shrines of Cotys and Ashtaroth, in "the grove of the Eumenides children of the night (130)," in "the darkness of *Lear* which is the night everlasting" (131), and the palace of Catherine which is preparation for the axe of Fotheringay, and Holyrood which is Mount Horsel; and has heard strange blasphemies of Borsola (132), or Malevole (133), or Monsieur (134), and violences out of Paris and Paphos (135). But as such it is not definable. Only here and there it reveals its derivation, and only sometimes its sympathy with Landor.

CHAPTER VI

“OPPRESSIVE HEAVEN”

IN one of the finest of the *Imaginary Conversations*, that between Marcus Tullius and Quinctus Cicero, Quinctus charges his brother with speaking “as if there were a plurality of gods,” and Marcus replies: “I know not and care not how many there may be of them. Philosophy points to unity: but while we are here, we speak as those do who are around us . . . and I, as you remember, adopting the means of dialogue, have often delivered my opinions in the voice of others, and speak now as custom, not as reason leads me” (186). Almost the same explanation applies to Swinburne’s use of “God” and “gods,” and must be applied if the poet who treats of God as the supreme evil (137) in the fourth chorus of *Atalanta in Calydon*, and of God’s breath as moving upon the face of the waters (188) the first freedom in the “Eve of Revolution,” is to be absolved from the charge of loose thinking and writing. For most often he speaks dramatically, and as those do who surround him, and as custom not as reason bids him; understanding this custom and this surrounding to be, not the conventions of English mid-Victorian

CHAPTER
VI.

~~CHAPTER~~ VI. society, but the literary company that surrounded his spirit; and of these, most important, Aeschylus, Blake, Shelley, Arnold, FitzGerald, and Landor.

Aeschylus, because whatever be the latest opinion as to the nature of the lost *Prometheus Luomenos*, and whatever reluctance modern criticism may feel to take the exposition of "Zeus" in *Prometheus Bound* at its face value, it is certain that Swinburne adhered to the opinion which places that Zeus beyond any possible future recovery or vindication as Divine Wisdom. For him this Zeus was "the lord and oppressor of mankind." But he must also have been aware, as a devoted student of Aeschylus, that there is a second signification of "Zeus" in that poet, the term being more often used to describe not the deposer of Kronos and the torturer of Prometheus but the "Zeus supra Zeus," the mystic supreme and divine idea "which through all human and superhuman interposition works for righteousness" (139).

Shelley, for despite his repudiation of *Queen Mab* Swinburne seems to have found some encouragement in its anti-orthodoxy, and certainly sustains himself on *Prometheus Unbound*. Blake, for as must soon appear Swinburne was early attracted to him. Arnold and FitzGerald, for such poems as "Félice" and "Laus Veneris," in their reflective passages, or the second chorus of *Atalanta*, or "Hertha" evidently borrow from them (140). And, most important, Landor, for the reasons which follow.

It is of course Landor's own defence that he puts into the mouth of Cicero. He allowed himself a dramatic licence in speaking of “god” and “gods”—especially in his *Hellenics*, the collection of his poems that Swinburne first read and most of all admired, especially in his college years and those just following.

CHAPTER
VI.

No complete philosophy or theology is to be obtained from these poems. Yet one of their outstanding features is concern with the gods. It is constant, far beyond what might be forced upon any poems dealing dramatically with classic life; and it is free, since very often the persons of the poems are beyond the popular level of belief—as the scoffing Lucian, who since each mortal calls his god inscrutable, which “at least is true,” wonders why some go on to subsidise him, others to split him down from nape to navel (141); or Aurelius, in the same dialogue, whose religion consists in gratitude to the gods, and good will to men, leaving as many gods upon the ground as, season after season, may spring up and stifle one another; or Sophocles, who thinks of Aeschylus as comforting chained Prometheus, “keeping the vultures and the gods away”; or Homer, who thinks they love praise—having made his best hymn in Apollo's honour; and Laertes, who thinks they “would more approve good works than glossy words,” since they know everything we can tell them of themselves or us. They seem to be very far away (except the ill-natured ones) and to be unknowable, unconcerned, and not above reproach:

About the Gods above I would not say
 A word to vex you : whither rolls the orb
 We stand upon I know not, or who trims
 The fires ethereal, or who rules the tides.

(vii. 421.)

Because unknowable, they appear unconcerned :

The world as ever let Injustice rule,
 Let men and Gods look on and little heed.

(vii. 448.)

Because unconcerned, except in their own immutable will, minding not man above the atoms of the earth whereof great and little are composed, to appeal to them is vain. Chrysaor, "flusht with insolence," goes further :

. . . men wrong
 By their prostrations, prayers, and sacrifice,
 Either the Gods, their rulers, or themselves.

(vii. 457.)

Their *now* is more than life's duration (142), beauty they will not pity, reproaches they may not brook (143). They enjoy glory through endless days : youth eternal is their delight, and they do not suffer age. They are bounteous, and give genius and beauty (seldom together), but they rarely grant the same blessing twice, and "they smile at incense, nor give ear to prayer" (144). This is their lack, for the soft voice of compassion is unheard among them ; no tear has ever dropped upon Olympus (145). Love is their highest law, and is solace for all uncertainties, save for those that perplex them ; but a maiden who trifles with her lover and yet would not wish his love nor him away, is—

Conscious that she is *walking over fire*

Unwounded, *on a level with the Gods,*

And rendering null the noblest gifts they gave.

(vii. 484.)

CHAPTER
VI.

From which it is hardly to be deduced that they care for human passion : nor if to be on a level with them is to trample over desire unconcerned ; nor if it be considered how (as the Homer of the *Hellenics* says)—

The best men

Have most to weep for, whether foreign lands

Receive them (or still worse !) a home estranged.

(vii. 531.)

These are, of course, dramatically delivered ideas ; and it is only with considerable danger of doing an injustice to Landor that they can be taken as really representing his fundamental religious thought. At the same time, something of system will be noticed in them, delivered as they are by different persons in the *Hellenics*, and they must be accepted as belonging to Landor in his rôle of classic, whatever different ideas he may have held as modern and Christian. There is very little of equal weight in the *Hellenics* that runs counter to them—a little praise, for the gods have given us birds and herds not scantily ; and a little elsewhere in the Classical Conversations, as where Artabanus tells Xerxes that “ One sits above the sun, observes it, watches it, and replenishes it perpetually with his own light to guide the walk of the seasons. He gives the sun its beauty, its strength, its animation.” But praise is common as comely, and though Swinburne has much the same sort in *Bersabe* and the *Queen Mother* and (most beautifully) in

CHAPTER VI. “St. Dorothy” there is little chance of establishing his relation to Landor by this means ; nor would there be even if the matter were an important one in Landor : which it is not.

Whereas, the “theology” of the *Hellenics* has weight and a degree of individuality sufficient to prove its influence on Swinburne even against various other of his poets who gave partial expression to the same doctrine. In a number of respects it is practically unique—in modern literature before Swinburne. First, in its commingling of “theology” with idyllic and erotic poetry. Then, as opposed to Blake, it is unique, foremost, if superficially, in form ; as opposed to Shelley, in its comparative completeness, negative though this is, and unsupplemented by Shelley’s Platonism and creed of Love ; as opposed to FitzGerald, in offering no positive ethic (no opportunism), unless it is the creed of political freedom urged in *Chrysaor and Regeneration* ; and, as opposed to Arnold, in its superficial reticence—“about the gods above I would not say a word to vex you”—and its quiet licence, both of which conflict with the doctrines of Pantheism as regards God, and self-sufficiency as regards man announced in *Empedocles on Etna*.

Not that self-reliance is absent from the *Hellenics*. It is a primary assumption. But it is not the philosophic self-reliance of Arnold’s poem, which equally looks down upon praise or blame of the gods as childish unreason. It supposes that the gods are aloof, and with Arnold (and with FitzGerald) proposes not to

assail them with vain obsecration. But it has ^{CHAPTER} VI. not arrived at the point of foregoing a little sly cavil as equally vain. This, too, is the case of the author of *Poems and Ballads*, except that with his large capacity for assimilating sad things, and his sombre sense of all the oppressions that are done beneath the sun, a little cavil becomes bitter denunciation, being fused with protestations out of Omar and refuted charges out of *Empedocles* by what appears a very intense personal feeling.

The concern with these problems comes very early in Swinburne. It begins in *The Queen Mother* with an idyllic praise of God who shuts and opens rain and the sweet sun with his hand ; develops seemingly into the perfection of “Saint Dorothy,” conscious (but not troubled) that “He is the end as well as the beginning, making the red pale with his breath,” and “filling with blood faint faces of men dead” ; and hardens into the doubt and desperation of the erotic poems. Here it seems to take colour from the general mood, defiant in “Laus Veneris,” sodden and expectant in “The Leper,” troubled and hopeless in “The Triumph of Time,” where, perhaps mindful of that impotently rolling bowl from the *Rubáiyát* (lxxxiii) as well as of Landor, the question is asked as to love :

Do the high gods know or the great gods care ?
 Though the swords in my heart for one were seven,
 Would the iron hollow of doubtful heaven,
 That knows not itself whether night-time or day be,
 Reverberate words and a foolish prayer ?

(§ 32.)

Later on, question gives place to positive statement—the gods are vindictive and oppressive and cruel—not, we must suppose, the “young compassionate gods,” merciful and “clothed with pity,” whose speedy fulfilment the neo-pagan of “The Hymn to Proserpine” foresees; nor yet the god of a “Hymn in Time of Revolution” who is above and beyond pact with blood-spotted high priests and kings, and his breath of resurrection felt even in the bones of the dead—but some other gods or god. He is satiety in “Rococo,” the blood of pain throbbing in the heart of pleasure, and he is the “mystery of the cruelty of things” in “Anactoria.” In “Féline,” for all its dependence upon Arnold’s *Empedocles*, there are gods to dispraise; whereas praise and blame had been shown on Etna (146) to be equal folly. As in Landor, they are cruel and beyond prayer: none has known them except by their intolerable scorn of futile petition. Will men always be fools of fate and pray to the blind sky? Yet God is not given up (again contrary to Arnold, whose soliloquy concludes with comfort drawn from the fact of life, the good thing it is to behold the sun). He cannot restore a ruined thing nor make dead things thrive (147); but he has given us two gifts—to forget and to die. In “A Lamentation” (148) their evil will is unknowable: “man’s fate is a blood-red fruit,” and the mighty gods have their fill of it, relaxing neither rein nor rod. Such grief as ours they wrought long ago to bruise men one by one; and no man sees beyond them and fate. In “Ilicet” there still lingers, reminiscently, “the

daughter of the old unalterable gods” (149). CHAPTER
VI. But they are here “clothed and crowned with patience,” bear witness of concealed things, and as all life stands chidden before them, so they stand chidden before the eyes of Fate, nor for love of them shall Fate retire (150).

“Ilicet” is among the latest of the *Poems and Ballads* (151), and is, seemingly, a preliminary study, or corollary of one of the most beautiful of the poems, “The Garden of Proserpine.” In both, the angry protest against “oppressive heaven” has been replaced by a sad fatality, and the acute life of the senses by a poppied sleep. But beyond both (and as I am inclined to think later than *Atalanta in Calydon*, as they also seem to be) is the poem to Hugo, which is the consummation of the sadness of the earlier poems: but restrained, not hectic; hopeful, and not cast down. The “chance central of circumstance still makes him exile who will not be slave.” God is still far. He has made us; but we know not if he care for anything. Only we know that he bade what is, be so: light and night, hope and fear, good and ill to kill and to redeem. We ask not remission of the whole world’s wrong—for there is no peace to have. Yet, as men may, we can be free. And to love and work and sorrow, and not sin for gold or fear or the world’s changes—this it is to live praiseworthy and beyond the power of gods or men or death to defame.

It will be seen that the positive ethics of this is an advance upon the earlier poems, which it nevertheless recalls in its rather Landorian witness-ing of the evil in the world. It is reminiscent

CHAPTER VI. also of themes in other poems so far no more than mentioned—themes that relate to Hugo somewhat, and to Landor little, but to Swinburne's spontaneous feeling very closely indeed. Their burden is the sadness of nature external to man. Poems from *Les Contemplations* or *Les Châtiments* may have been its early stimulus, or North country ballads of grief on Till or Tyne ; but there is no proof of this, or need, as against the certain circumstance of things seen and remembered from stormed Northumbrian headlands or from the cliffs of Wight : preferably from these places of his boyhood and later wandering, for the burden is of the sea.

It is part of “the mystery of the cruelty of things” that maddens Sappho—plunging prows of ships amid flame-like foam, comets and disastrous stars, eclipse and shaken hills with sorrow of labouring moons and altering light and planetary travail ; part of “the old pain of the earth” in “A Lamentation,” and of the third and of the fourth fierce chorus of *Atalanta*. From the soul that abides beset and vexed in the sea that is Fate (152) a cry arises as love is added, a surplusage of grief. Was there not evil enough—with storm and famine, peril of shallow and firth, thunder of surf on the sands ; loud shoals and reefs ; wrecks afar, rent sail and shattered oar, darkness and noises of the night, and the sound of women wailing on the sands (153) ?

But the cruelty is more than this. It is of perishing lands, and of people in prison and of infinite griefs suffered under all the oppression that is done beneath the sun. It is of desire

slain with shame, the soul mismated with the ^{CHAPTER} _{VI.} grievous bodily clay, love taken and grief returned, springs that the sea makes bitter, roses fed on the dust of many men, "change and the secular sway and terrene revolution of the sun." And all this, and a cloud of grief-spiritual and misfortune natural, is heaped as hatred upon God.

Because thou hast made the thunder, and thy feet
 Are as a rushing water when the skies
 Break, but thy face as an exceeding heat
 And flames of fire the eyelids of thine eyes ;
 Because thou art over all who are over us ;
 Because thy name is life, and our name death ;
 Because thou art cruel and men are piteous,
 And our hands labour, and thine hand scattereth :

At least we witness of thee ere we die
 That these things are not otherwise, but thus (154).

This is indeed but a vain extract. But it represents the whole : tenebrous and tense, suggesting a Pantheism, and yet railing as though railer and railed-at were not one : suggesting an Absolute, and bestowing upon him as sum of all grief both cognition and will perverse from his own being ; deriving from schools of abuse a concept and clothing it in the language of the psalms. No one but Swinburne could quite describe the process and (after due reverence to his real feeling for things suffered, his burning compassion for wrongs endured) it is from him that we must borrow a description that is at all adequate : he alone can solve his own riddle of Materialism and Mysticism.

He had read much and blindly ; he had no leaning to verbal accuracy, and never acquired any faculty of

CHAPTER VI. comparison. Any sound that in the dimmest way suggested to him a notion of hell or heaven, of passion or power, was significant enough to adopt and register. . . . Over these clamorous kingdoms of speech and dream some few ruling forces of supreme discord preside, and chiefly the lord of the world of man ; Urizen, God of cloud and star, "Father of jealousy," clothed with a splendour of shadow, strong and sad and cruel . . . ; the night is a part of his thought, rain and wind are in the passage of his feet, sorrow is in all his works ; he is the maker of mortal things, of the elements and sexes . . . ; in his worship faith remains one with fear. Star and cloud, the types of mystery and distance, of cold alienation and heavenly jealousy, belong of right to the God who grudges and forbids (155).

Admittedly the first part of this much more than overstates the case as it might be made out against Swinburne ; but except that it has suffered something of a sea-change, the latter part will serve for a description of one of the gods of *Atalanta* ; and will designate the "lord of love and loathing and of strife" of the fourth chorus, by the name which Blake, his creator —the subject of this quoted criticism—gave him, Urizen, the god of this world ; "god of restraint, creator of prohibition, whose laws are forbearance and abstinence."

Yet we are not wrong in presupposing even for *Atalanta* some relation to Landor. For, as we have already said, the drama is dedicated to him. Furthermore, it seems to have arisen from a passage in the *Hellenics* or in the Greek and Roman Conversations—it matters little ; for one is the prose and the other the verse expression of the same sentiment. Swinburne certainly

knew both, and all of Landor’s published works—^{CHAPTER} VI. by 1864, the year of his pilgrimage to Florence, and the year when *Atalanta* was written. The reference to Atalanta comes in the dialogue between Achilles and Helena. Helena meets him on the summit of Ida, having been brought there miraculously out of Troy by Artemis and Thetis. She speaks of her brothers, Kastor and Polydeukes, and of her girlhood. “Often shall I think of you as ye were (and oh! as I was) on the banks of the Eurotas.” And at the first mention of her brothers Achilles interjects :

Companions of my father on the borders of the Phasis, they became his guests before they went all three to hunt the boar in the brakes of Calydon. Thence too the beauty of a woman brought many sorrows into brave men’s breasts, and caused many tears to hang long and heavily on the eyelashes of matrons. (ii. 6.)

The story (which has other possibilities) could not have been suggested with more high seriousness, nor with more compressed beauty of perfect detail. Swinburne expands it, realising all. Even the girlhood of Helena finds a place in his account, for his Meleager is made to report that sailing back to Calydon he had seen her, swan-white Helen, where Eurotas hollows his moist rock, and, less fair than she, fair Clytemnestra; “sisters grave as pasturing fawns” (156). Other matters in “Peleus and Thetis” seemingly reflect in *Atalanta*, Achilles’ answer to Helena’s question about the hunt, for instance, telling her that he himself was not present because his father, who feared some foretold evil, sent him away. In

CHAPTER
Swinburne's poem, Meleager announces to Althaea the names of the coming heroes, and speaks first—

Peleus the Larissæan, couched with whom
Sleeps the white sea-bred wife and silver-shod,
Fair as fled foam, a goddess ; and their son
Most like a god, full of the future fame.

But no more is heard of Achilles—perhaps for the reason Landor gives. The mention of Thetis is, admittedly, quite in classic custom ; but it is also a very likely circumstance for one fresh from Landor's account of her lament (in another of the *Hellenics* : “Peleus and Thetis”) for her slain son. In this dialogue there is also mention of hunt and “the impetuous rush of the beast of Kalydon.” Once again Landor mentions this hunt, and, touching upon another in passing, shows his narrative skill in a little passage not unsuggestive of the incomparable report of the messenger in Swinburne's poem. Corythos comes from Oenone to Helena :

Not so fast
The motion of his heart when rush'd the boar
Into his toils, and knotty cornel spear
Whiz'd as it struck the bristles, and the tusks
Rattled with gnashing rage thro' boiling blood.
(vii. 499.)

Atalanta is then doubly connected with Landor. It probably was suggested by a passage in the *Hellenics*, and it is dedicated to his memory “with equal affection, reverence, and regret,” having been “inscribed to him while yet alive in words which are now retained because they were laid before him.” We may then suppose that Swinburne was conscious of

“OPPRESSIVE HEAV

nothing in his poem that made it an unsuitable memorial—neither the violent choruses nor the sympathy with Blake. On both of these matters he had indeed some reason to be at rest. For as early as 1837 Landor had been fascinated by Blake's writings, and had gone so far (in his Boythorn manner, we may be sure) as to maintain that Blake was the greatest of poets. Also Swinburne was able to write of Landor's dealings with slaves and kings that—

These, with scorn's fieriest rod,
These and the Lord their God
The Lord their likeness, tyrant of the skies
As they Lord Gods of earth,
These with a rage of mirth
He mocked and scourged and spat on, in such wise
That none might stand before his rod,
And these being slain the Spirit alone be Lord or God (157).

And it is true that Landor assailed the deity of “Holy Alliances” and temporally tyrannising priesthoods with more inconsistency and vigour than even the extracts from the *Hellenics* will suggest, so that Swinburne might conceivably have taken sanction from him, and must have expected approval, had he been able to dedicate *Atalanta* to the living man.

At the same time it must be noticed that Landor's attack on superstition and oppression does not recommend itself overmuch for Swinburne's description, nor for directer influence upon *Atalanta*. His belief was orthodox. And his assault upon the God invoked by Catholic and most Christian kings “when any great violence or injustice was to be perpetrated” (158)

CHAPTER VI. fell rather upon the kings and priests who invoked him. It was an assault upon that impiety which called the Maker the Destroyer, and called him Lord of Hosts who (as Lucian says to Timotheus) "according to your holiest of books declared . . . so plainly that he permits no hosts at all; much less will he take the command of one against another" (159); upon "the religion of Constantine and of Charlemagne, falsely called the Christian, and subversive of its doctrines and benefits" (160); upon such religious ceremonies as in courts "cover with their embroidery moral obligations" and in which "the most dishonest and the most libidinous and the most sanguinary kings (to say nothing of private men) have usually been the most punctual worshippers" (161). In a word, his attack was upon injustice invoking false religion; and it is concerned with political wrongs, not with those unalterable conditions of life which are (to the comparative neglect of things medicable) so heavy a burden in Swinburne's drama.

We cannot but observe a divergence between the two poets at this point. Landor believes in life: (Atalanta in Calydon is oppressed by life's bitterness. The choruses of denunciation are the fulfilment of the sadness and mystery of "the making of man" described in the second chorus. Here, out of the attributes of decay and mutability and grief, the high gods with loathing and love fashion his spirit—"the holy spirit of man.") Time incarnate waits upon his creation, bearing a gift of tears; and Grief, with a running glass; and Summer with falling

flowers. The gods give him light in his ways and foreknowledge of death, love and a space for delight and beauty. But :

He weaves, and is clothed with derision ;
Sows, and he shall not reap ;
His life is a watch or a vision
Between a sleep and a sleep.

The darkness is pervasive—"the same weird gloom of fatalism," says a critic of the time, "wraps the classic stateliness of *Atalanta*, the fierce untamed passion of *Chastelard* and the many-sided, many-coloured life of the *Poems and Ballads*." . . . "In everything that Mr. Swinburne has written the same absence of faith is to be marked" . . . "And by faith we do not mean religious belief, compact of formulas or not, but a moral *évéryeia*, a principle underlying and informing life and action, whether it be belief in duty, or liberty, or virtue. Faith such as this made Rousseau great, and Goethe, and Shelley, and Carlyle, and Victor Hugo; as it did Job and Ezekiel, and Paul and John Patmos. But there is no sign of it in Swinburne" (162). To which we must add—"The darkness is pervasive"—but even a presage of belief, and the forerunner of faith.

Let alone that happiness of the "special and intense life" which take on themselves (as does Hugo's) (163); let alone the music treading upon dark and airy feet, we even the certain faith that is in the

SWINBURNE AND LANDOR

CHAPTER beyond all his loves—and this is the faith and
VI. love of Liberty.

The Love of Liberty is expressed negatively, in the very protest against irremediable ills which burdens them upon God; unchangeable laws of which the witness is that these things are not otherwise, but thus: grievous and compelling. More philosophical poets had been content to accept these laws and to devise human freedom in respect of them. Swinburne protests; and, if we may use an almost contemporary judgment of his own on the subject of liberty, he protests because of their compulsion. In the pamphlet *Of Liberty and Loyalty*, written probably in 1866 (a year after the publication of *Atalanta*), he opposes Carlyle and Ruskin who proposed, as it seemed to him, "obedience instead of self-reliance, drill instead of devotion, force instead of faith, for the world's redemption," and asks: "What virtue can there be in giving what we have no choice but to give; in yielding that which we have neither might nor right to withhold?"

The law of the love of liberty" continued for him something beyond "all human mere obedience" (164); and in *Atalanta* overshadowed) it has also positive "We may not do all we would, " yet in one choice we have; to live and die" (165). Such just service of liberty; and the king that of those who fall fighting" or a sacrifice) (166) saved her. And in this we

must notice certain characteristics, over and above those innately Greek, that bear testimony of Landor.

The first of these is the idea of the importance of speech—not so much in its harmful effect (which is a proper Greek sentiment given full expression in the fourth chorus) but in its helpful aspect :

Speech too bears fruit, being worthy ; and air blows down
 " Things poisonous, and high-seated violences,
 And with charmed words and songs have men put out
 Wild evil, and the fire of tyrannies.

(ii. 449-452.)

This may be mindful of Tyrtaeus or of Körner—though, as Swinburne says, he was given rather to be mindful of Sappho and Goethe. But it has the closest sympathy with Landor. It utilises his dogma as a positive faith against the prevalent despair of the drama, and also, it may be said, as a promise of the *Songs before Sunrise* and *Songs of Two Nations* in which, a little later, Swinburne was to add the reality of song blown against tyranny to the creed he announces here. This sympathy is confirmed by the open evidence of all Landor's writings, and also by the constant testimony of his disciple, as in the "Song for the Centenary" which records how

. . . in the soft clenched hand
 Shone like a burning brand
 A shadowy sword for swordless fields of fight,
 Wrought only for such lord
 As so may wield the sword
 . . . That all things ill be put to fear and flight.
 (§ 4.)

This, however, might refer with equal pertinence

CHAPTER VI. to the poet of *Les Châtiments* or *L'Année Terrible*. And it is only when Landor's theory is considered, in addition to his action, that the reason fully appears for naming him as sponsor for this hopeful theme in *Atalanta*. The importance of speech was one of his cardinal doctrines. "On words," says Lucian in the *Conversations*, "on words . . . rests the axis of the intellectual world. A winged word hath stuck ineradicably in a million hearts, and envenomed every hour throughout their hard pulsation: on a winged word hath hung the destiny of nations" (167). "I am persuaded," Lord Peterborough says to Penn, "that even the highest national character might be raised still higher, by inspiring boys with a timely love of it, (patriotic music) and by supplying them with lofty and generous sentiments in graceful and well-composed songs" (168). The same sentiment is given to Trelawny, friend of Shelley and also of Swinburne, who praises him as "World-wide liberty's life-long lover." "One well-sustained note of a public singer is able to stir and scatter those accumulations of exaction, which would lie motionless and inert as in the mine, at the cries of all Greece, all Christendom, all Nature" (169). And (to quote but one more) Landor in his own character, immediately after his stirring lines "on the slaughter of the Brothers Bandieri, betrayed to the King of Naples," places another poem beginning :

There are whose hand can hurl the shafts of song
 Athwart wide oceans; barb'd with burning light
 Do they dispell all mists Time throws around,

And where they fall men build the beacon-tower
And watch the cresset, age succeeding age.

(vii. 219.)

CHAPTER
VI.

Swinburne then allies with Landor in preaching this doctrine: he raises Landorism as a banner against the spirit of fatalism. And he does more than this. He lays hold upon Landor as a faith. In the midst of the flow and uncertainty and distress of things, he seizes upon him as example and proof of the abiding Soul; and raises to him a memorial which is an extension into the drama itself of the perfect praise and trust of the Greek dedicatory verses. Obviously he is thinking of Landor in this picture of the life glorious and the death desirable, which are greater than all else:

The sweet wise death of old men honourable,
Who have lived out all the length of all their years
Blameless, and seen well-pleased the face of gods,
And without shame and without fear have wrought
Things memorable, and while their days held out
In sight of all men and the sun's great light
Have got them glory and given of their own praise
To the earth that bore them and the day that bred,
Home friends and far-off hospitalities,
And filled with gracious and memorial fame
Lands loved of summer or washed by violent seas,
Towns populous and many unfooted ways,
And alien lips and native with their own.
But when white age and venerable death
Mow down the strength and life within their limbs,
Immortal honour is on them, having past
Through splendid life and death desirable
To the clear seat and remote throne of souls,
And these, filled full of days, divine and dead,
Sages and singers fiery from the god,

And such as loved their land and all things good
And, best beloved of best men, liberty,
And whatsoever on earth was honourable
And whosoever of all the ephemeral seed,
Live there a life no liker to the gods
But nearer than their life of terrene days.

The passage is one of the most beautiful in *Atalanta*. But its general beauty is no greater than its particular tenderness and perfect fitness as tribute to the "old demigod" to whose memory the drama is dedicated; whose life and death to find here described perfectly requires only recollection of those great commemorative poems, "Thalassius" and the "Centenary Song," previously noted; and hardly of those, in the light of the Greek dedication which gives him hail in death: "know that thou hast honour before men and gods, if god there be over those beneath the earth. Hail, sire; hail, beloved father, the best by far of singers whom we knew."

It is true that after this profession of faith in song, and this great tribute to a human ideal, *Atalanta* grows sombre and ends in a cry of helplessness. But there is no need, because of the darkness to forget the light that shines in it, especially since Swinburne's later work shows that this light (which we have thought to call Landor's), grew brighter into a more perfect day where faith in man, and faith in the power of Song ran hand in hand to proclaim the Republic that should regenerate the nations.

CHAPTER VII

TRANSITION

DURING the period of the production of *Poems* ^{CHAPTER} ~~and Ballads~~ ^{VII.} Swinburne was a somewhat ardent exponent of a narrowly conceived doctrine of "art for art." He seems to have conceived and expressed it under necessity of opposition to the theory that would make art the "hand-maid of religion." But "handmaid of religion," he answered, "exponent of duty, servant of fact, pioneer of morality, she cannot in any way become." Her one business is not to do good, but to be good ; and any attempt at compromise with Puritanism, any indulgence in "the deleterious appetite of saving souls or helping humanity in general along the way of labour and progress" (170) is worse than suicidal. Of his product of this period and theory it is worth noting that the best of contemporary criticism (that attributed to John, now Lord, Morley) said that it was deficient in large human sympathy. "The greatest men," the critic explained, "are neither mere subtle-minded elves frisking about in the heated places of passion simply for the joy of frisking, nor mere giants surveying all life indifferently as epicurean gods."

CHAPTER VII. In 1872, just after the production of *Songs before Sunrise* (1866-1871), Swinburne made another, and a somewhat advanced, confession of artistic faith. Still maintaining that "the only absolute duty of art is the duty she owes to herself," he announced that the "doctrine of art for art is true in the positive sense, false in the negative." "The worth of a poem has properly nothing to do with its moral meaning or design . . . ; but, on the other hand, we refuse to admit that art of the highest kind may not ally itself with moral or religious passion, with the ethics or the politics of a nation or an age" (171). The devotion of the Singer before Sunrise to the Spirit of Freedom and Progress connects itself, naturally, with this creed :

I am the trumpet at thy lips, thy clarion
Full of thy cry, sonorous with thy breath ;

or a little later in the same poem, "Mater Triumphalis,"

I have no spirit of skill with equal fingers
At sign to sharpen or to slacken strings. . . .

The new creed and the new deed were one. The poet who had thought to serve art as an ideal separate from the interests of life as a whole, had come to find a more perfect service. Here art and morality, love of beauty and moral passion go hand in hand. And the love of beauty is the nobler because allied with a virile inspiration which, though it allow no "sharpening or slackening of strings," no delight of languorous and lovely subtleties, keys song into grander harmony.

The difference between these two creeds,

between the two series of poems of which they are counterparts, is the difference between Swinburne's youth and his maturity. It is to be measured not in terms of external influence, but in terms of his growth. Yet, in so far as development does answer to external influence, we may be permitted to refer to one of the influences that stimulated this growth—the influence of Landor's precept and example. He did not conceive of great art except as the union of great mastery of expression with real exaltation of thought.

For Landor, "invention, energy, and grandeur of design [are] the three requisites to constitute a great poet" (172); and he found the combination in no modern poet since Milton. Energy, he calls the "soul of poetry"; but energy without ideal beauty, that sublimer emanation of things sensible, gives us—Byron: "a large grasp of small things, without selection and without cohesion" (173). Design is the better for something of severity, for that "hath always been appertaining to order and to grace; and the beauty that is not too liberal" (perchance, that does not "sharpen or slacken strings" at the dictates of the moment) "is sought the most ardently and loved the longest" (174). Gravity and solemnity, however, fitness and propriety in every part, mere perfection of workmanship—these do not by themselves alone define a work as noble. No human works are so perfect as some of Catullus'; "but many are incomparably greater" (175). "Invention" is the distinguishing characteristic of great poetry; and this we may understand to be synonymous with "Imagina-

CHAPTER VII. "tion" as he elsewhere describes that. "Vigorous thought, elevated sentiment, just expression, development of character, power to bring man out from the secret haunts of his soul, and to place him in strong outline against the sky"—these belong to it. It is distinct from Fancy, which is Imagination in her youth and adolescence, dwelling among the faeries and their congeners with whom the weak and ductile poet is fond of playing. "Their tiny rings . . . are no arena for action and passion. It was not in these circles that Homer and Aeschylus and Dante strove" (176).

Even so little as this may be sufficient to indicate Landor's poetics. These are, however, scattered utterances: their collective force may have failed of effect on the reader. Even so, they are gathered up in other Conversations, and with such definiteness and appropriateness to such a condition as Swinburne's poetry presented when he became acquainted with them, that it is difficult to conceive him uninfluenced. The greatest of these is the *Pentameron*, the series of conversations between Petrarch and Boccaccio, which is Landor's most important single claim on fame as a critic and artist in prose. The doctrine of the importance of literature is here nobly expressed with its significant corollary. To weak man is given the power to lay up "thoughts in their cabinets of words which Time, as he rushes by, with the revolution of stormy and destructive years, can never move from their places." Wherefore unremitting care should be taken that nothing soil the work that is being raised against the ages; for which ministration let there stand with

unclosing eyes Integrity, Compassion, Self-denial. ~~CHAPTER~~
And he who would win greatness must heed this :
“ We may write little things well, and accumulate
one upon another ; but never will any be justly
called a great poet unless he has treated a great
subject worthily. He may be the poet of the
lover and of the idler, he may be the poet
of green fields or gay society ; but whoever is
this can be no more. A throne is not built of
birds’ nests, nor do a thousand reeds make a
trumpet ” (177).

In some yet narrower details Landor’s criticism
may have commended itself to the writer of
Poems and Ballads, the player of

Tunes touched from a harp with man’s fingers
Or blown with boy’s mouth in a reed.
(“ Dedication,” *P. and B.*)

“ From the mysteries of religion,” he says, “ the
veil is seldom to be drawn, from the mysteries
of love never. For this offence the gods take
away from us our freshness of heart and our
susceptibility of pure delight ” (178). And again
(though this is from a private letter that Swin-
burne can scarcely have seen) : “ If you turn
your mind to poetry, let me for once have in-
fluence enough with you to persuade you not to
indulge in any kind of it which verges on sad-
ness. . . . Take my word for it, if we fondle and
pamper our griefs, they grow up to an unwieldy
size and become unmanageable ” (179). Not in-
cluded among the formal works, this passage has
the sanction of them all. And if Swinburne knew
Landor’s acclamation of the stalwart - souled

CHAPTER
VII. Aeschylus, of Pindar and Milton and Browning,
then he knew the advice from the letter in its
very essence.

These precepts find example in the whole body of Landor's work, high in artistic ideal so that his instinct for form seals as his the least thing he put his hand to ; elevated in moral ideal to overthrow evil and enthrone good in human life. And these, in the light of Swinburne's praise, we must believe to have been somewhere instrumental in bringing about the change from *Poems and Ballads* to *Songs before Sunrise*. Beginning of change has already been witnessed in *Atalanta*. Its first fair fruit comes in "A Song of Italy" and the "Ode on the Insurrection in Candia." And after these, but under the additional culture of the Italian patriot, Giuseppe Mazzini, comes the glorious additional harvest of political poems which, with the two just mentioned, go to make up *Songs before Sunrise* and *Songs of Two Nations*.

CHAPTER VIII

SONGS BEFORE SUNRISE AND SONGS OF TWO NATIONS

But when God commands to take the trumpet, and blow a dolorous or a jarring blast, it lies not in man's will what he shall say or what he shall conceal.—MILTON, “Against Prelaty” (180).

I. THE LITERARY TRADITION

THERE have been trumpets enough astir in CHAPTER VIII. English literature since Chaucer heard the clarion of Eolus blow “est and west, and southe, and north” (181), or since Knox blew his first blast. Republicans have loved the metaphor: Blake and Shelley and Landor; Meredith also, who in the book, *Vittoria*, which Swinburne praised, describes Italy of the '48 revolts: “Even the shadowy vision of Italy Free had no bloom on it, but stood fronting the blown trumpets of resurrection Lazarus-like” (182). But it may be allowed that never was the matter so turned into

Sonorous metal blowing martial sounds as in the hand of Milton, in particular in the passage from “The Reason of Church Government urged against Prelaty” that heads this

CHAPTER VIII. page. Landor quotes it (incorrectly) and comments upon it four times. Through Marvel he describes it as "the grandest piece of harmony that ever was uttered from the heart of man" (183); and evidently was himself influenced by it, as in the *Pentameron*, where his Boccaccio is made to say: "Rome, she, I think, will be the last city to rise from the dead," and Petrarcha answers: "There is a trumpet, and on earth, that shall awaken even her" (184). What is more significant, he seems to have passed on the metaphor and the instrument to his disciple, to be used triumphantly in "The Eve of Revolution" (*Songs before Sunrise*).

I hear the midnight on the mountains cry
 With many tongues of thunders, and I hear
 Sound and resound the hollow shield of sky
 With trumpet-throated winds that charge and cheer,
 And through the roar of the hours that fighting fly,
 Through flight and fight and all the fluctuant fear,
 A sound sublimer than the heavens are high,
 A voice more instant than the winds are clear,
 Say to my spirit, "Take
 Thy trumpet too, and make
 A rallying music in the void night's ear,
 Till the storm lose its track,
 And all the night go back;
 Till, as through sleep false life knows true life near,
 Thou know the morning through the night,
 And through the thunder silence, and through darkness light.

(\$ 2.)

I set the trumpet to my lips and blow.

(\$ 3.)

Further on in the same poem Swinburne appeals to England by her great names and memorial past:

O Milton's land, what ails thee to be dead ?

CHAPTER
VIII.

Such sons were of thy womb,
England, for love of whom
Thy name is not yet writ with theirs that fell,
But, till thou quite forget
What were thy children, yet
On the pale lips of hope is as a spell ;
And Shelley's heart and Landor's mind
Lit thee with latter watch-fires ; why wilt thou be blind ?
(§ 16.)

From this (and what has preceded) it must be plain that the office and the instrument Swinburne undertakes here were urged upon him and accepted at the hands of Landor—Landor in the first instance, and also again in the last, for almost all of Swinburne's republican inspirers had previously received his praise and approval (185). One, indeed, the highest and brightest, whom Swinburne calls the perfect Singing God, had to some extent anticipated Swinburne's discipleship in a way that could not but have made it for him a holy and perfect succession.. For Shelley had been influenced by Landor.

“ C'est l'idéologue par excellence (Swinburne writes, mindful, we may believe, of his own experience in his oblique praise of Shelley), l'habitant des nuages, le fou criminel qui avait eu ce double avantage de naître aristocrate et d'être élevé par des prêtres, et qui en avait profité pour se déclarer à vingt ans libre-penseur et républicain ” (186). He goes on to discuss Shelley's Cenci (the subject of this French essay), to score the “ Vicaire du Dieu catholique ”

who had sold to Francesco Cenci for so much cash the fee simple of the outrage he committed, and to consider Landor's scenes of Beatrice's tragedy. "Républicain et libre-penseur lui aussi, Walter Savage Landor avait à son insu inspiré et raffermi par ses premières poésies l'âme et le génie du collégien qui devait écrire le *Prométhée délivré*." And then he adds (the italics are mine): "Plus d'un demi-siècle après, un autre jeune homme qui aspirait à se montrer poète est allé remercier le même grand écrivain, alors âgé de quatre-vingt-neuf ans, d'avoir fait pour lui la même chose" (187).

As to the first of these incidents, it must be said that Swinburne hardly overstates the case. Landor's *Gebir* came into Shelley's hands at Oxford in 1811. Hogg relates that he was captivated by it, would at times read nothing else, "would read it aloud to himself, or to others with a tiresome pertinacity," and when so engaged, his attention could in no wise be drawn away, even though Hogg snatched the book and threw it out of the window to the quad, whence it was speedily redeemed for the poet's reabsorption. Long after, Shelley's widow wrote to Landor that her husband's passionate love for *Gebir* had outlived his college days and remained with him to the last (188).

We already know who was the "autre jeune homme," and how he came to present himself before Landor at Florence in 1864. It is only necessary to remember Swinburne's comment (already cited) on the three "children of the political idea" of the early nineteenth century,

Byron, Shelley, and Landor, in order to appreciate how important to him was personal relation with the last of them. They were poets “ strong enough to work and breathe in the air of revolution, to wrestle with change and hold fast the new liberty, to believe at all in the godhead of people or peoples, in the absolute right and want of the world, equality of justice, of work and truth and life ; and these three came all out of the same rank, were all born into one social sect, men of historic blood and name, having nothing to ask of revolution, nothing (as the phrase is now) to gain by freedom, but leave to love and serve the light for the light’s sake ” (189). He does not openly assert his connection with them, it is true. But it is obvious that he was conscious and careful of it. It was brought home to him in various ways, perhaps much to his liking by Hugo, who wrote him : “ Vous avez raison : vous, Byron, Shelley, trois aristocrates, trois républicains ” (190) ; though, from what he himself has said, Landor’s name must be substituted for Byron’s that the accord may be not only between men of birth and lovers of liberty, but between lovers of beauty as well—men who loved the art they served too fervently to give it anything but perfect service (191). Of these three, Shelley, Landor, and Swinburne, the first was the soul of belief in human perfectibility through change, “ brooding on things to come ” ; the second, a sword drawn against oppression ; and the third, the trumpet of Revolution.

Swinburne must have inherited various ideas,

interests, and impulses from these three and from the larger community of poets they represent. Ideas of liberty, impulses to assist and maintain it, to celebrate its name or promise, and particular devotion to Italy and to Greece were perhaps chief of these.

The idea of liberty in the early nineteenth century had been rationalised. Political freedom was considered essential, but not all-important. The mere fact of it, coolly estimated, did not represent anything more than the beginning and entrance upon a new life. A slave of the day before cannot suddenly become "liberal-minded, forbearing, and independent," Shelley wrote in the Preface to the *Revolt of Islam*: "This is the consequence of the habits of a state of society to be produced by resolute perseverance and indefatigable hope and long believing courage, and the systematic efforts of generations of intellect and virtue."

Shelley, however, did not represent the whole thought or feeling on the subject of Liberty. There remained vestiges of the old revolutionary or pre-Revolutionary fallacy, that if mankind were freed from "the disabilities that wrong systems of government have imposed, their own interests (would) supply them both with energy and with morality" (192). There remained vestiges of the old political religion that would do reverence to the mere name of liberty. And it must be said that these strays continued to exist because of Landor. He was "a child of the political idea" of the eighteenth century—a child who never grew up. Sir Sidney Colvin,

SONGS BEFORE SUNRISE

one of the most earnest of his admirers, authoritatively describes the situation : CHAPTER
VIII.

In the sphere of politics and government, it must be allowed that he never got beyond the elementary principles of love of freedom and hatred of tyranny ; . . . of the complexity of political organisms and political problems he had no conception, and practical as he believed and intended much of his writing on politics to be, it is usually so much high-minded declamation and no more (193).

This is literally true of Landor's poetry, as well of his political prose, but here, perhaps, with less unfortunate results. The defect is plain ; but the highness of mind and greatness of style somehow contrive to give to even half-truths an enviable immortality. A single glorious passage will serve as an illustration of this :

We are what suns and winds and waters make us ;
The mountains are our sponsors, and the rills
Fashion and win their nursling with their smiles.
But where the land is dim from tyranny,
There tiny pleasures occupy the place
Of glories and of duties ; as the feet
Of fabled faeries when the sun goes down
Trip o'er the grass where wrestlers strove by day.
(Regeneration, vii. 461.)

He is here led to establish the benefits of free nature (inferentially) under free governments, and to disestablish them because of a political condition. And it is his great love of freedom, associating with it all good ; his great hate of tyranny, associating with it all ill, that has done this, his impatience with all the oppressions which are done beneath the sun. He " panted to be

CHAPTER VIII. present " on the day of resurgent nations, especially of resurgent Italy and Greece.

In Swinburne's words, most ardent and most awful, but also most fond, his Apollonian eye yearned over Greece till she rose from her long sleep. "Greece," he says (through Johnson), "ought to be preserved and guarded by the rulers of the world, as a cabinet of gems, open and belonging to them all. . . . Her ancient institutions and magistracies should be sanctioned to her, in gratitude for the inestimable blessings she has conferred on us" (194). This is what Shelley and Byron, each in his own way, had also urged.

More beautiful than this (because involved with natural beauty), though not more powerful, was the love poured out upon Italy for her political regeneration. Even Wordsworth (as Swinburne gratefully records), "conservative and reactionary as he was considered, and as he conceived himself to be," in unconscious anticipation of Mazzini's evangel, had foretold to Italy the third stage of her great destiny, and at a time when prospect of Italian freedom and unity must have seemed wellnigh hopeless. He had hailed her as "the whole world's darling," and summoned her, "Mother of heroes," to awake from her death-like sleep (195). Byron was possessed by the same feeling. Venice was "the fairy city" of his heart; Rome, his country, "city of the soul"; for all Italy his longing was that she should be less lovely or be more strong (196). And Shelley gave her perfect love, as passages in "Julian and Maddalo"

show perfectly, or the “Lines Written among ^{CHAPTER} the Euganean Hills,” or the fervid appeal in VIII. the “Ode to Liberty.”

II. LANDOR'S EXAMPLE

In beauty and sincerity and force nothing that Landor wrote about Italy could go any further, and we must consider Swinburne as inheriting from Shelley and Byron especially, as well as from him. Yet Landor has an advantage over them in having been able, while yet alive, to pass on the tradition of love for Italy to his disciple, and to pass on a hope for Italy that was informed by the actual progress made. The movement for Italian liberty developed from disordered hopes to political achievement (not quite complete) within his long life. The men, the events, the excitements were known to him: particulars to oppose or to celebrate, so that whatever ideal he may have had for Italy, gathered from contemplation of pre-imperial Rome or post-imperial Venice, it was both modified and strengthened by contemporary events and possibilities.

“Italy,” he says (through Petrarca), “is our country; and not ours only, but every man's . . . who watches with anxiety the recovery of the arts, and acknowledges the supremacy of genius” (197). In a little poem to Dickens he tells him to show “how less than lovely Italy is the whole world beside” (198). Again, in a shorter reflection entitled “To Shelley,” he expresses the same sentiment, but saves it from excess by a sudden thought, induced perhaps by

Chap. the very subject of his poem :

He who beholds the skies of Italy
 Sees ancient Rome reflected, sees beyond
 Into more glorious Hellas, nurse of Gods
 And godlike men : dwarfs people other lands.
 Frown not, maternal England ! thy weak child
 Kneels at thy feet and owns in shame a lie.

(viii. 284.)

One of his earliest schemes for the reformation of Italy advocated the formation of seven federated republics, whose common council should meet in Rome, deliberate in the capitol, and house themselves in the Vatican, whose normal incumbent should be permanently removed to Venice (the suggestion is given to Machiavelli in conversation with Michael Angelo), in order that he might be successor to St. Mark as well as to St. Peter, and, as a most salutary matter, be in the midst of a community better practised in opposing him than any other in Italy (199). This scheme, of 1843 or earlier, gave place to the larger conception of unified Italy. In a later "Conversation," published in the *Athenaeum* in 1861, the same spokesman (graver with the years) gives expression to the new idea : "Republican as I am, I would willingly see all Italy under one constitutional hereditary prince" (200); and the collocutor, in this case Guicciardini, replies that if Italy is ever to be so ruled, the only prince eligible is the Duke of Savoy. At the end of his life, then, Landor gave his sanction to the unification of Italy as it was then proceeding, under Victor Emmanuel, Duke of Savoy, King of Piedmont.

In reality the change was great in appearance rather than in principle. Landor's republic was to be no democracy—the American principle as he understood it was entirely unacceptable. It was to be an aristocratic republic with strong centralised authority—"unity of power being the principle of republicanism, while the principle of despotism is division and delegation" (201); and an aristocracy (not necessarily of birth) being more likely to promote the interests of the people than the people are to know them (202). Such a republic certainly differed little from a constitutional monarchy created (as was united Italy) by the will of the people.

Between 1843 and 1862 Landor wrote a great deal on the subject of Italy, and often to the end of enforcing the idea that each revolting city represented the cause of the whole people, in opposition to Austrian or Papal oppression: "Are ye Anconites?" "No, sir, but Italians, and in Ancona lies the cause of Italy" (203): and enforcing the idea that the northern Italian kingdom was fighting the battle of the nation: "If Piedmont falls, Italy falls. . . . Unhappy land of breathless hope! of enchanted heroism! of consecrated lies!" (204).

His benediction lay upon all the cities. Upon Milan (of the 1848 revolts, the "Five glorious days") he invoked the blessing of its patron saint—Borromeo:

And, O most holy one! what tears are shed
 Thro' all thy town!
 Thou wilt with pity on the brave and dead,
 God will with wrath, look down.
 (viii. 214.) (205.)

CHAPTER VIII. Wrongs were heaped on the head of fair Verona ; his pen would help the sword to sweep them off. And he bade her " Lift the wave of war," as Nature lifts Benacus at her side (206). He appealed to Venice, dishonoured but not debased, and comforted her that deliverance was nigh. On earth are venomous reptiles who lift high the crested head—" But one calm watcher crushes them ere long " (207). He cried to Syracuse, long asleep, but yet alive, to raise again her head ; for Garibaldi the avenger was come and one loud shout would shatter the polluted throne (208). He took his place with Hiero, Gelon, and Pindar to praise reborn Sicily for deeds more glorious than the old, and first saluted Palermo who called : " Arise, be free ! " He scourged with scorn the destroyers of the Roman Republic, glorified the memory of its defenders—and through the lips of Garibaldi and Mazzini, awaiting the consummation of Napoleon's perfidy, he delivered eternal praise to Belgioso, the nursing angel of the siege (209).

He celebrated the slaughtered Bandieri Brothers, betrayed to the King of Naples ; and gave such comfort as he could to the heart of patriotism :

And could not you, Mazzini ! wait awhile ?
 The grass is wither'd, but shall spring again ;
 The Gods, who frown on Italy, will smile
 As in old times, and men once more be men.
 (viii. 177.)

And, lastly, in his final volume, the *Heroic Idylls, with Additional Poems*, 1863, he appealed to the

first of great English republicans, who had sounded the trumpet against Italian tyranny : CHAPTER
VIII.

O Milton ! couldst thou rise again and see
The land thou loved'st in thy earlier day,
See springing from her tomb fair Italy
(Fairer than ever) cast her shroud away,
That tightly-fasten'd triply-folded shroud,
Torn by her children off their mother's face !
O couldst thou see her now, more justly proud
Than of an earlier and a stronger race !

(viii. 389.)

These are the *Last Fruit off an old Tree*, the last *Dry Sticks Faggoted*, by *Walter Savage Landor*. The old splendid spirit of the young century flowed up in them into the harvest that Swinburne came to gather. In these "dry sticks" was the blaze of Republican fire. Love of liberty ; desire to maintain or establish it which held as anathema the doctrine of Non-Intervention between state and state ; love of Greece and love of Italy,—these things then came to Swinburne direct from Landor.

So it was most fitting that Swinburne should open his career as singer of revolution by celebrating the cause and commiserating the oppression which are respectively the themes of his two great poems after *Atalanta* : "A Song of Italy" written in the winter of 1866-67; and the "Ode on the Insurrection in Candia," completed by January of 1867 (210). Of this latter poem George Meredith, not yet having seen the first, wrote : "The Ode is the most nobly sustained lyric in our language, worthy of its Broader, fuller verse I do not know" (211). He might as well have said that it was worthy of its

CHAPTER VIII. great ancestry of hope and devotion: and we may be allowed to do so, recollecting Landor in the light shed by an extract from W. M. Rossetti's *Diary*, Jan. 13, 1867: "Swinburne read me at night, his poem, approaching completion, on Italy; yesterday, one which he has written for the Candide refugees, to give them the profits." These, we may hope, were not, like Landor's, so often predevoted to a humanitarian cause "also imaginary."

III. "A SONG OF ITALY" (*Songs before Sunrise*)

The "Song of Italy" opens with a dream-vision in which Freedom, as a woman of supreme presence, blesses and enheartens Italy who bows before her and, as child with mother, clasps her knees. And this is the need of the blessing: that Italy had been stretched on Promethean rocks, torn by fouler eagles; that a serpent stains with slime and foam her chief city; that this had happened to her who was Freedom's most glorious child, and perfect jewel:

My lesser jewels sewn on skirt and hem,
I have no need of them
Obscured and flawed by sloth or craft or power;
But thou that wast my flower.

I were not Freedom if thou wert not free
Nor thou wert Italy.

Freedom has not forgotten her through dark days of blood and labour, and now she bids her rise:

O sweetest head seen higher than any stands,
I touch thee with mine hands ;
I lay my lips upon thee, O thou most sweet,
To lift thee on thy feet,
And with the fire of mine to fill thine eyes,
I say unto thee, Arise.

And Italy arises.

The vision closes and the poet takes up the song, and appeals to her by the passion that rent her chain to manifest herself. Let her flag fly till kings, seeing it, should wail, priests grow faint. He reminds her of her disastrous years, when Emperor and Pope and priest said that she had been, but was not any more ; reminds her of those who gave this word the lie ; the Bandieri foremost among them ; Pisacane, and Agesilao and Orsini. And all these fair dead he summons to see resurgent Italy who was not dead, but slept, and is and shall not pass.

The poem then turns toward Mazzini, tells him to take no shame or grief because the supreme sunrise is not yet. A little while and it comes. The fruit comes ; but the perfect flower is now here : he has set Italy free. For Austria would not have fallen had not Italy (even unvictorious) opposed her : not even the blood of defeat was shed in vain (212). There is praise, too, for Garibaldi, but the song returns to "the chief," blessed beyond all men, who found his country bare and bound and took her woes upon him, and from suffering became god. All Italy is invoked to praise him—winds, skies, vineyards, hills, rivers, fallen and risen faces, and the voice of a hundred cities—"Benedicite opera omnia."

Risen Italy is then besought to show pity on her fallen enemies : because they had no pity, let her be pitiful. And last there is invocation of the supreme city, priestless Rome that shall be—to conserve the memory of those who held its vision greater than their lives ; and there is appeal to the republic universal (the 'love-bond of all men) that was with England before she passed among the faded nations—appeal that she should consecrate

Strong with old strength of great things fallen and fled,
Diviner for her dead,
Chaste of all stains and perfect from all scars,
Above all storms and stars,
All winds that blow through time, all waves that foam,—
Our Capitolian Rome.

One or two points, even in this outline of a poem covering twenty-nine pages, will have recalled Landor's usage : the invocation of the cities, for instance ; in particular, too, that so vehement expression of love for Italy which overthrows other and older allegiances. Landor indeed corrected his errant expression, and affirmed his devotion to England (as in the poem "To Shelley"). But Landor was old.

This is no more than a superficial resemblance however : and if we are to have any right to refer the spirit of this poem to the spirit of Landor as in any real degree its inspirer, the superficial resemblance must be guaranteed by others not superficial. But before this can be done two important facts must be considered. These facts concern the immediate literary impulse that led Swinburne to the production of this poem ; and

the historical occasion for it. Both of these ^{CHAPTER} VIII. circumstances in a very real way advance the person of Joseph Mazzini, whom Meredith called "the soul of the Risorgimento." "A Song of Italy" is dedicated to him.

The immediate literary impulse was, without a doubt (the evidence is circumstantial, yet of extreme plausibility) the novel *Vittoria* by George Meredith which first appeared, serially, in the *Fortnightly Review*, January to December 1866. As we have learned from Rossetti's *Diary*, Swinburne's "Song" was only "approaching completion" on January 13, 1867. *Vittoria* is the Epic of Italian revolt, the inspired and tortured soul of Italy athirst for Freedom. It thrills with contagious energy that lifts the spirit of the reader even now, when there is no longer political freedom to win or celebrate for Italy. It must have been fire in the blood and song in the ears of at least one reader in that last bitter year of Italian disunity. The "Song of Italy" is proof that it was.

The opening pages of *Vittoria* describe a meeting of Italian patriots and conspirators on the top of Monte Motterone, above the Lombard plain. One man rises spiritually above them all; and another describes him :

"There stands the man who has faith in Italy though she has been lying like a corpse for centuries. God bless him! He has no other comfort. *Viva l'Italia.*" The man is Mazzini.

His language is airy and cloudy and mingled with symbolism (213); he taught his people to "read God's handwriting," to see defeat of

CHAPTER VIII. Austria for ever in the sky. Morning and the east; “black and yellow drop to the earth: green, white and red mount to heaven” (214).

Watching over his Italy; her wrist in his meditative clasp year by year; he stood like a mystic leech by the couch of a fair and hopeless frame, pledged to revive it by the inspired assurance, shared by none, that life had not forsaken it. A body given over to death and vultures—he stood by it in the desert. Is it a marvel to you that when the carrion-wings swooped low and the claws fixed, and the beak plucked and savoured its morsel, he raised his arm, and urged the half-resuscitated frame to some vindicating show of existence? Arise! he said, even in what appeared most fatal hours of darkness. The slack limbs moved; the body rose and fell. The cost of the effort was the breaking out of innumerable wounds, old and new; the gain was the display of the miracle that Italy lived. She tasted her own blood, and herself knew that she lived (215).

The Italy of *Vittoria* is the Italy of the 1848 revolts. The purpose of that initial meeting on Monte Motterone is to plan the first rising. It is to be in Milan, and the signal is to be an opera, *Camilla*, an allegory, which, as such, has escaped obtuse Teutonism in the censor’s chair. By the marriage of Camillo and Camilla is represented the union of the old indolent, amorous, aimless Italy and (Camilla) young Italy. Camillo has had an earlier passion, for Michiella, (Austria’s spirit of intrigue): but gives her over.

Before the wedding Camilla dreams that her lost mother (Italia) comes to her bedside to bless her nuptials: she is shrouded and weeping—and she dishrouds limbs like a goddess—but martyred. “My child!” she says, “were I a goddess, my

wounds would heal. • Were I a saint I would be in Paradise. . . . I cry to God. The answer of our God is this : ' Give to thy children one by one to drink of thy mingled tears and blood. . . .' and she hands to Camilla a silver sacramental cup, so filled. And Camilla drinks.

The fulfilment of this dream vision is given in the finale. Camilla has been stabbed by Michiella; and dying she sings. Allegory is stripped off : truth glows undraped, and the interdicted name of Italy rings like a trumpet-call :

I cannot count the years,
That you will drink, like me,
The cup of blood and tears,
Ere she to you appears :
Italia, Italia shall be free !

"So the great name was out and its enemies had heard it."

You dedicate your lives
To her, and you will be
The food on which she thrives,
Till her great day arrives :
Italia, Italia shall be free.

Swinburne's welcome praise was "poured out" (216) before Meredith in a personal letter ; and is certainly spread broadcast, though subtly, through "A Song of Italy," which, but for Meredith, could hardly be just what it is, if indeed it could have been written at all.

It seemed that Italy's great day had arrived in 1866—if one did not look at it too closely, nor inquire too carefully into the circumstances under which it had come. The circumstances, it will be remembered, were these :

The barbarous disunity* of 1848 had given place gradually to the extension of monarchy, and by 1861 there existed a Kingdom of Italy. From this there were lacking Rome and Venetia, which the Kingdom was too weak to seize and incorporate with itself, the temporal power being sustained by grace of Napoleon III., and Venetia being under Austrian domination. Italy had to seek an ally ; and that ally Prussia became. In 1866, consistent with this agreement, war was declared against Austria. The southern campaign was disgracefully managed, the Italians being badly defeated at Custoza and, at sea, at Lissa, where they possessed the advantage of iron-clads against the enemy's wooden ships. Meanwhile the Prussian campaign had prospered, and the Austrians suffered a crushing defeat at Königgratz. In accordance with a secret treaty, Venetia was handed over to Napoleon and, following a plebiscite which declared overwhelmingly for union with Italy, Venetia became a part of the Kingdom. Victor Emmanuel was elated at the news from Venice. “‘This is the finest day of my life,’ he said ; ‘Italy is made ; but it is not complete ! ’ Rome was still wanting ” (217).

The King may have been elated : but there were many Italians who were humiliated—who could not but feel the dishonour of accepting Venetia as dole from the Emperor. Mazzini was one ; and he did not realise what hard necessity had driven the government into unwilling acceptance. “To him it seemed mere pusillanimity, pregnant with ‘dishonour and ruin.’ ‘It is my lot,’ he sadly wrote, ‘to consume

my last days in the grief, supreme to one who CHAPTER
VIII. really loves, of seeing the thing one loves most inferior to its mission ” (218).

It is to him, in these circumstances, that “ A Song of Italy ” is addressed. Yet the song shows itself either heroically unmindful, or rashly unappreciative of Mazzini’s condition. It calls upon liberated Italy to praise him : but to him Italy was not yet free. It calls upon “ risen Rome ” to praise him : but Rome was not yet risen—even Victor Emmanuel knew it was not yet risen ; and the word in Swinburne’s mouth must surely be a surprise to the student who has accepted the dedication of the poem to Mazzini, as proof that the poet himself had turned Mazzinian. He has Mazzinian ideas and shows himself conversant with Mazzini’s “ airy cloudy language.” But this treatment of these ideas is un-Mazzinian. For Mazzini they were ideals, certain, but very distant ; for Swinburne’s impatience they are ever at hand. In short, he seems at once a Mazzinian idealist and a Landorian realist. And in what ways, since the problem continues throughout *Songs before Sunrise*, it may be of value to determine now.

First, the idea of Capitolian Rome with which the poem ends is from Mazzini. Such a Rome was his dream city, and in 1849, for some hopeful days in the life of the ill-fated Roman republic, he had thought it an opening reality. “ After the Rome of the Emperors, after the Rome of the Popes, will come the Rome of the people. . . . The world shall see that it is a starry light, eternal, pure, and resplendent as those we look up to in

the heavens" (219). That particular manifestation had faded. But even as the '49 republic fell, Mazzini declared again his immovable hope in the significance of the city: "Rome is the centre, the heart, of Italy; the palladium of the Italian mission; and the city wherein broods the secret of our future religious life" (220). Popeless and republican, this Rome was to be for the healing of the nations—a city of God whose Prophet is the People.

Mazzinian also is that sublime plea for clemency to enemies whom the hurrying hope of the poet pictures as already broken and abashed. For, set as was Mazzini against Papacy and tyranny, his ideal was one of just clemency. The Republic that was to atone for the dishonour of 1866, brought upon Italy by the "primal falsity of royalty," was to be a great "moralising education, to change men from serfs to citizens, and make them conscious of their mission, their strength and dignity" (221). Revenge, spoliation, violent anti-clericalism were to be absent from it. It would—and it alone could—win Rome for Italy, gain Istria and the Tyrol, and stretch out a hand to alleviate what (in the language of the "Song of Italy") we may describe as "the huge eastern woes." By this care for the rights and sufferings of men the whole world over, this working for "God's holy cause, for His holy truth, for the freedom of the peoples and of the Soul of man" (to use the words of Mazzini's Prayer for the Planters) (222), by this alone could the state approve that divine necessity which brought it into being.

Mazzinian again (almost as we have already seen it in Meredith) is the turning of nature to account in "A Song of Italy" to prophesy or record Italian triumph and Austrian defeat—the black and orange banner like withering leaves in autumn ; the tri-colour, green as summer, and red as dawn.

CHAPTER
VIII.

But un-Mazzinian (as has been suggested) is the lack of discrimination between the thing attained and the thing desired, between the Italy of 1866–1867 and the Italy that might merit such adoration as is poured out in the "Song." There is pathos in the circumstance that saw the publication of this poem followed after only a few months by the tragedy at Mentana ; that, while Swinburne was glorifying Italy, saw her finances tottering, her people disgraced and impoverished, Sicily rampant with Bourbon and clerical insurrection, "risen Rome" throttled by Papal and French troops and 10,000 of her best patriots in exile (223)—that saw, finally, Mazzini writing : "If Rome is to be annexed to the Kingdom, like the rest, I would rather that the Pope stayed at Rome another three years."

Un-Mazzinian indeed is Swinburne's conception of liberty. Liberty was essential in Mazzini's scheme of things. "Where liberty is not, life is reduced to a simple organic function. The man who allows his liberty to be violated, betrays his own nature, and rebels against God's decrees" (224). The Republic was essential because it insured liberty. But "the Republic . . . is the enthronement of the principle of association, of which liberty is merely an element, a necessary

CHAPTER VIII. *antecedent*" (225). Liberty is the condition under which individuals may associate in a state and promote the prosperity of all by the development and exercise each of his special function ; in which states may associate and promote the interests of humanity, each by the exercise of its national talent (226). Liberty for Italy meant nothing for Mazzini unless it brought a consciousness of duty and mission. "The liberty of Rome," he wrote, "is the liberty of the world. If Rome revolts, she must proclaim the victory of God over Idols, of eternal Truth over Falsehood, the inviolability of the human conscience" (227). And again, writing historically of the crude result of Rights-of-Man individualism : "Mere liberty of belief . . . destroyed all community of faith. Mere liberty of education generated moral anarchy" (228). "Liberty is but a *means*. Woe unto you and to your future should you ever accustom yourselves to regard it as the *end*" (229).

But for Swinburne, at this time, was not liberty itself the end ? Otherwise, could he have so poured out his soul in exaltation of an achievement which only by a stretch of republican imagination, and by comparison with the tyrannies of the 'forties and 'fifties, might be called an achievement of Italian liberty ? He admits as much by omitting from the book of his maturer Mazzinianism—*Songs before Sunrise*—this "Song of Italy" which, by the superficial fact of its dedication and central praise would seem to belong in it, reserving it, until it should have become by four more years less inopportune. He had accepted Mazzini's dream and been

thrilled by the imperial fancy of a *Roma del popolo* where, perhaps, a council of the United States of Europe might assemble. But what he had in large measure celebrated was the simple commonsensible fact of the final overthrow of Austrian oppression in Italy. And in this he was following not the Mazzinian but the English tradition, somewhat content in its mid-course with the ingenuous idea that once tyranny should cease a people would in the course of nature look out for themselves. He was (we are tempted to remark) walking in the footprints of Landor.

Of Landor, because nothing in a "Song of Italy" shows any correspondence to either Byron or Shelley. And of correspondence to Landor there are many evidences. Some of these are inevitable, almost, as between the work of two men who had followed the various stages of Italian development: but others betoken the similarity of two similar temperaments moved by the same circumstances, if indeed they do not betoken a certain willing acceptance of the manner of one by the other. The most striking of these is hero-worship.

In Swinburne this was certainly indigenous. As early as 1861 in his novel *Love's Cross Currents: A Year's Letters*, he had entrusted one of his characters with an expression and explanation of it which all his later work merely develops and exemplifies:

As to me . . . when I see a great goodness I know it—when I meet my betters I want to worship them at once, and I can always tell when any one is born my better. When I fall in with a nature and powers above

CHAPTER VIII. me, I cannot help going down before it. I do like admiring ; service of one's masters must be good for one, it is so perfectly pleasant . . . it seems to me all the same whether they beat one in wisdom and great gifts and power, or in having been splendid soldiers or great exiles, or just in being beautiful (230).

But this innate generosity of spirit had received support and direction from at least two sources—from Blake and from Landor. Hero-worship had become almost a religious duty : and that it is worship indeed no reader of “A Song of Italy” can deny. Blake had taught that “the worship of God is : Honouring his gifts in other men, each according to his genius, and loving the greatest man best ; those who envy or calumniate great men hate God, for there is no other God ” (231). An unnamed critic of Blake (and correspondent of Swinburne's, quoted in the *Essay on Blake*, p. 225) had so defined the Pantheistic creed (which Swinburne was adopting gradually it seems) that, the according of just such praise may be construed to be its absolute and essential ethic. “God,” he says, “appears to a Theist as the root, to a Pantheist as the flower of things. . . . There is no God unless man can become God. . . . So it is in the spiritual world ; tyranny and treachery, indolence and dulness cannot but impede and impair the immutable law of nature and necessary growth.” Lack of appreciation, one may then say, stiff self-righteousness and narrow acknowledgment and obtuseness—these indeed are the prime offence and hindrance of God.

Innocent of mysticism, but instinct with real

religion the doctrine of the obligation to praise had been announced with equal force and frequency by Landor. "Whenever a man capable of performing great and glorious actions is emerging from obscurity, it is our duty," he says, "to remove, if we can, all obstruction from before him; to increase his scope and his powers, to extol and amplify his virtues" (282). He himself found cause for just pride in having freely given praise and encouragement to his deserving contemporaries (283), and pleasure in the act of praise: "there is delight in praising" he assures Browning in a poem which makes praise a delight (284). And he recommends praise as a function of poetry: "Poetry is the voice of Fame, and celebrates, not what is famous, but what deserves to be" (285).

CHAPTER
VIII.

All this flowed in upon Swinburne and fed the current of his already eager spirit; turned pleasurable impulse into valid principle. And about the time of the publication of the "Song of Italy," he gave new expression to the creed to which he adhered in that and his later work—that "it is not only more profitable, but should be more delightful for all who desire or who strive for any excellence of mind or of achievement to do homage wherever it may be due; to let nothing great pass unsaluted or unenjoyed" (286). "Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers who were before us," became a motto which at any moment he would be glad to obey as a command—especially in behalf of those "who while alive had to dispense with the thanksgiving of men" (287).

Even with this creed and the explanation given of it, the praise accorded to Mazzini may seem not only extreme but wild. Extreme it must remain—for the perversion of the canticle “*Benedicite opera omnia*” into the service of any man is beyond all defence. But it is not beyond explanation—not even by the limited example of Landor.

And Landor’s example is limited : for whereas Swinburne was constantly able to find “his betters,” and constantly able to praise them, the case was entirely different with Landor. “Among all men elevated in station” who had “made a noise in the world,” he never saw any in whose presence he felt inferiority, excepting Kosciusco (238). And he probably never conceived of any—for Pindar and Aeschylus should take him between them ; Milton say to him : Commonwealth’s man, we meet at last (239), never any before whom he could consistently feel inferiority, except one : Shakespeare. And he praises him in a manner too nearly associated with Swinburne’s to be desirable : “Glory to thee in the highest, thou confidant of our Creator ; who alone hast taught us in every particle of the mind how wonderfully and fearfully we are made” (240). And again :

In poetry there is but one supreme,
Tho’ there are many angels round his throne,
Mighty, and beauteous, while his face is hid.
(viii. 82.)

In theory, too, Landor almost allows for an extension of a similar method of adulation to lesser men than this supreme. He knew but of

two genera of such—"the annual and the perennials" (241). And he counsels: "Let every man hold this faith, and it will teach him what is lawful and right in veneration; namely that there are divine beings and immortal men on the one side, mortal men and brute beasts on the other" (242). Furthermore, he adds that "the throne of God is a speck of blackness, if you compare it with the heart that beats only and beats constantly to pour forth its blood for the preservation of (its) country" (243).

How then was Swinburne to praise Mazzini: a patriot of patriots, pouring out his blood for the regeneration of Italy, not in one throbbing effusion, but drop by drop, as it were, through years of exile and privation; hounded from Italy, from Switzerland, from France; finding refuge—and for a time a seemingly precarious refuge—in England (244); and throughout it all teaching, exhorting, *slaving* that Italy might be free? How else was Swinburne to praise him than by exhorting all the works of the Lord to praise the name of Mazzini?

IV. SONGS BEFORE SUNRISE

Swinburne did not at this time (January–February 1867) know Mazzini personally, nor (as has been suggested) adequately realise the significance of his evangel. But this state of affairs was soon to see change, such change as makes it obligatory even for an essay on Swinburne and Landor to give something more than

CHAPTER VIII. passing heed to the figure of Mazzini. The circumstances follow.

The "Ode on Candia" appeared in the *Fortnightly Review*, March 1867, and on the 11th of the month Swinburne, "to his unspeakable satisfaction," received a letter from Mazzini concerning the poem, urging him to devote his powers to the great public cause, and to lay aside what (in the dry phrase of W. M. Rossetti's diary, which records the incident) we may describe as "love, etc., poems" (245). Further extracts from the same journal are terse descriptions of the drama that ensued :

Tuesday, April 16 (1867).—. . . Scott says that Swinburne, being at Karl Blind's the other evening, met Mazzini personally for the first time. Mazzini walked straight up to Swinburne, who fell on his knees before him and kissed his hand.

Tuesday, May 7.—. . . Swinburne called—full of his interviews with Mazzini, who has a great objection to the present Italian Government, even apart from the question of monarchy, and would prefer to leave the Roman States quiet for five years or so, rather than see them annexed to the present Italian Kingdom by an immediate revolutionary movement, as contemplated (it seems) by Garibaldi. Swinburne speaks of Mazzini's immense magnetic power, which he feels operating upon him, Swinburne, apart from the enthusiasm which he entertains for his character. . . . Mazzini urges him much to write poems with a directly democratic or humanitarian aim : which Swinburne finds it difficult to shirk, at the same time that he feels conscious that is not exactly his line, and would not promote his true poetic development (246).

Obviously an uncritical acceptance of Mazzini's

advice would have been no promotion of Swinburne's complete development. It would have been impossible for him to devote his art to the service of any moral principle and maintain at the same time his integrity as an artist ; for the utmost latitude of his poetic theory allows only that art may *ally itself* with moral or religious passion, and never that it may enslave itself (247). But he did not accept it uncritically : five months after the meeting recorded in the diary he had planned *Bothwell*, *Mary Stuart*, *Tristram of Lyonesse*, as well as various political poems, and had begun work on *Bothwell* (248). In January 1868 his incomparable ode, "Ave Atque Vale," in memory of Baudelaire, appeared.

But obviously, too, Mazzini's advice, properly understood in accordance with Swinburne's manifold capability, was precisely what he most needed. In the natural course of his development his innate humanitarianism and love of liberty had come to fruition in two noble poems, the "Ode on Candia" and "A Song of Italy." It was desirable that he should bring forth such fruit more abundantly. And with Mazzini's sympathy and inspiration he did this. He accepted the advice as a command, and set himself to obey it with an assiduity as perfect as becoming in a disciple of the great Italian, whose sublime and supreme ethic was that of duty. It was not always easy to perform : there were depressions between crests of excitement, and at these times Mazzini's desire was as light upon him. Such a period seems to have come in 1868, which Mr. Gosse describes as a critical year in the poet's

CHAPTER VIII. development. "His principal pleasure was the encouragement given him by Mazzini, 'my beloved chief, still with us, very ill and indomitable, and sad and kind as ever.' 'Siena' was finished in May and 'Tiresias' was begun in June. Swinburne was doggedly and painfully working at what he always called '*His* book,' the Chief's book, the volume of political lyrics which Mazzini had commanded him to write for the glory of Liberty and Italia" (249). He was working at it, it seems, with a consciousness that his work was a faithful service of the man he "most loved and revered on earth," or, indeed, of the symbol he most revered on earth (for Swinburne's praise and adoration of sublime men and of little 'children' is essentially religious). And of this no better proof can be given than that, near death by drowning at Étretat in 1868, the one matter that filled him with annoyance was that *Songs before Sunrise* was not completed; and the one that filled him with satisfaction was "that so much of it was ready for the press, and that Mazzini would be pleased with him" (250).

One other thought came to him in these drowning moments, the last it seems before he lost consciousness: he reflected "with resignation" that he was "exactly the same age as Shelley was when he was drowned." It was a mistaken idea, for he was a year and more older than Shelley. But it is not without significance as indication (in addition to the proof afforded by the poems themselves) that he was continually conscious of the English tradition he represented, even in the midst of the devotion to Mazzini.

The same idea is implicit in the statement he makes (in the Dedicatory Epistle to his collected poems) : “ The writer of *Songs before Sunrise*, from the first line to the last, wrote simply in submissive obedience to Sir Philip Sidney’s precept, ‘ Look in thine heart and write.’ The dedication of these poems, and the fact that the dedication was accepted, must be sufficient evidence of this. They do not pretend, and they were never intended to be merely the metrical echoes, or translations into lyric verse, of another man’s doctrine. Mazzini was no more a Pope or a Dictator than I was a parasite or a papist. Dictation and inspiration are rather different things. These poems, and others which followed or preceded (251) them in print, were inspired by such faith as is born of devotion and reverence,” and not, he goes on to say, by any servile faith compatible with spiritual prostration, proof of which is his reservation on religious matters : “ You know that I never pretended to see eye to eye with my illustrious friends and masters, Victor Hugo and Giuseppe Mazzini, in regard to the positive and passionate confidence of their sublime and purified theology ” (252).

But this statement is Janus-faced, and looks toward both his artistic individualism and his inspiration by Mazzini. And before coming to the former matter (which involves Landor, as we have seen) some regard must be had for the latter. In what way are *Songs before Sunrise* the “ translations into lyric verse of another man’s doctrine,” but not merely this ?

Some of Mazzini’s ideas have already been

CHAPTER VIII. stated, that of the “Rome of the people,” which should succeed the “Rome of the popes” as that had succeeded the “Rome of the emperors”: this Swinburne translates into lyric verse in *The Song of the Standard* (stanzas 8-11 inclusive); the idea, too, of the universal Republic which should have as its capital the new and glorious Rome. This Swinburne accepts as inspiration for his whole conception in *Songs before Sunrise*. The advent of this Republic Universal is the supreme sunrise, toward which every poem in the collection sets its gaze. To its realisation the poet summons all the countries of his love:

Build up our one Republic state by state,
England with France and France with Spain,
And Spain with sovereign Italy strike hands and reign.
(*Eve of Revolution*, § 17.)

For its realisation he appeals to Italy, the (Mazzini-appointed) hope of the nations:

Let there be light, O Italy!
For our feet falter in the night.
O lamp of living years to be,
O light of God, let there be light!
(§ 84)

.
Till the inner heart of man be one
With freedom and the sovereign sun;
And time, in likeness of a guide,
Lead the Republic as a bride
Up to God's side.

(“Siena,” § 36.)

But this ideal was only the distant climax of Mazzini’s hope. And that it might be attained and permanently possessed he thought and laboured his life long to sweep away oppression,

and by inspiration and education to make man ^{CHAPTER} VIII. really noble.

Only a few essentials of his system can be given here—those that affect *Songs before Sunrise*. Mazzini's whole teaching is a protest against the philosophy of the French Revolution and its derivatives in his own day. They promulgated doctrines of Individualism, Rights of man to liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the State as a utilitarian social contract. He preached Collectivism, the Duties of man to God and to humanity, the State as an expression of man's essential nature, his divinely appointed need of association (253).

God is the crown of this system : His works are His witness (254), the earth the garment of His idea. His law is the law of life ; duty has its source in Him, and the great duty is Social progress. God, in judging us, will not ask, “What hast thou done with thy soul ?” but “What hast thou done for the souls of others ?” God's prophet, the ultimate interpreter of His law, is Humanity, a Being greater, holier, more divine than the individual, who lives though individuals die, and garners up the good of their lives (255). God's city is the Republic, where the principle of associate progress is best realised, “the similitude of that divine society where all are equal, and there is one love, one happiness for all” (256). Royalty, “the primal falsity of royalty,” was in opposition to this progress. The Papacy was also opposed to it ; Christian dogma was also opposed to it. Therefore Mazzini bade these institutions and this faith go by.

The law of associate progress, he taught, was to be worked out in the nation ; but the *ultimate* good was always to be sought, the good of humanity. He steadily opposed, therefore, the doctrine of international "Non-Intervention," especially as announced in England in the mid-century. "Can it be England," he wrote in 1847, "the England of the Reformation, the England of Elizabeth and Cromwell, self-centred in immoral indifference, that gives up Europe to the dictatorship of force ?" In 1867 "he attacked the Manchester school for perverting the sense of human solidarity" (257). In May 1869 Rossetti's diary reports : "Swinburne says that Mazzini has no liking for Bright, on account of his non-interference in politics, and especially the affair of 'Perish Savoy.' " His sympathy was strong for all suffering peoples—for the oppressed Balkan States, for Hungary, for "poor sacred Poland," whose cause he tried to advance in England as late as 1863.

The "Dedication" and the "Epilogue" of *Songs before Sunrise*, both to Mazzini, declare that these poems are "of the seed of his sowing." Some of them seem also to have been of Mazzini's watering. But there was other seed to spring up under the same culture—seed earlier sown, which (at least in the "Ode on Candia") was already far advanced before Mazzini appeared in person. This continued to spring up, and it both thwarted and enriched his harvest. For it there were many "sowers," by no means least among them Landor.

The first Mazzinian idea somewhat thwarted

was the foremost of his creed—the idea of God. ^{CHAPTER VIII.} Swinburne was unable to accept it, and “never pretended to see eye to eye with . . . Mazzini” (258), or with Hugo in regard to this matter. This rejection gave a new significance to all the ideas that he did accept, even, it seems, to the idea of the Republic. The city of God for Mazzini, it becomes for Swinburne “God.” It is the City of God for Mazzini ; but so by right of *becoming* rather than achievement. “ We believe the human period of our existence too distant from the highest ideal . . . to allow that the virtue of which we are capable here below can suddenly deserve to reach the summit of the ascent leading to God ” (259). “ We shall not be able absolutely to destroy (evil) here below ” (260). For Swinburne it is manifestly a symbol of absolute perfection, and an idea for adoration and worship :

. . . thou that art
Where one man’s perfect heart
Burns, one man’s brow is brightened for thy sake,
Thine, strong to make or break ;
O fair Republic, hallowing with stretched hands
The limitless free lands.
(“ A Song of Italy.”)

From Mazzini (or from observation) he came to learn that Italy was further away from the first light of his ideal than “ A Song of Italy ” had conceived. And in the “ Halt before Rome ” he acknowledges that the earlier cry, “ *Italia is risen,* ” was premature :

So spake we aloud high-minded,
Full of our will ; and behold

The speech that was half way spoken
Breaks, as a pledge that is broken.

But he continues to be "high-minded" and "full of his will," in his fervid hope, his splendid trust, and passionate appeal to the "immeasurable Republic, that should arise and lighten above quick and dead" ("Quia Multum Amavit"). "He watches by time's shut gate, till, "in some short sacred space":

. . . the slow soundless hinges turn,
And through the depth of years that yearn
The face of the Republic burn.

And not only he, but the whole family of disunited nations, seek and entreat the visitation of this deliverance.

It may be possible for some people to believe that Swinburne was celebrating here only Mazzini's Republic, and that the increase of spiritual and political importance he gives it is a matter of style and rhetoric merely. But the possibility depends upon something of a disregard of the facts. Accept them, and one is forced to realise that his conception of the Republic made it a more millennial sort of institution than it was for Mazzini, and more than it was for any but those Republicans of the untried dawn when "it was very heaven to be young." Its fabric is more ethereal and shimmering; there is more faith and serene hope in it. One hesitates to explain this by any cause external to Swinburne's own exuberant and unreflecting spirit; but is forced to accept it when he himself gives such an explanation. It is generous, no doubt, per-

haps over-generous. It is coloured by hero-worship and heightened in the way that heightens almost any single theme of personal history when an attempt is made to isolate and describe it apart from the rest. But there can be no doubt that there is some important truth in it. The explanation is made in "Thalassius" in connection with the instruction by that High Song immortalised in the poem :

And hope the high song taught him : hope whose eyes
 Can sound the seas unsoundable, the skies
 Inaccessible of eyesight. . . .
 For she can see the days of man, the birth
Of good and death of evil things on earth,
Inevitable and infinite.

And it is confirmed by what Swinburne further says of his hero in the Centenary Song :

He bade the spirit of man regenerate,
 Rekindling, rise and reassume the rights
 That in high seasons of his old estate,
 Clothed him and armed with majesties and mights
 Heroic. . . .

Further, it must be noted that if Swinburne's optimism was sustained from the outside at all, no one is so likely to have sympathetically sustained it as Landor, for, in contradistinction to Shelley, who entrusted to Love the regeneration of liberated man ; and to Hugo (261), who invoked Pity for this office and God as the supreme hope ; and to Mazzini, who invoked Duty because he thought love too frail for the laborious education and uplifting of humanity, Landor, as has been shown, in many moods supplied no regenerating principle whatsoever,

CHAPTER VIII. political and moral emancipation being for him almost the same one thing. In the poem "Regeneration," which Swinburne perfectly describes in the lines just quoted, this idea is explicit. "Regenerate man has risen," because of a political tyranny overthrown.

Another of Mazzini's ideas accepted, but somewhat revalued by Swinburne, is the idea of Humanity as a continuous collective Being, holier than the individual. For Mazzini, Humanity was the Prophet or Interpreter of God. For Swinburne, Humanity is "God." Mazzini, addressing the Ecumenical Council in 1870, declared that the Council, whatever its members intended by it, would proclaim the death of a religion, and, therefore, the inevitable and not distant advent of another. He himself had desired a Council—of a different sort, one that should meet "for the purpose of religiously interrogating the pulsations of the heart of Collective Humanity" (262)—that is, the peoples. In sequence of this (263), it would seem, Swinburne wrote his "Hymn of Man" (during the session at Rome of the Ecumenical Council), proclaiming the death of Catholic deism and the birth of the Religion of Man :

Thou and I and he are not Gods made men for a span,
But God, if a God there be, is the substance of men which is man.
Our lives are as pulses or pores of his manifold body and breath,
As waves of his sea on the shores where birth is the beacon of death.
We men, the multiform features of man, whatever we be.
Recreate him of whom we are creatures, and all we only are he.

Not each man of all men is God, but God is the fruit of the whole ;

CHAPTER
VIII.

Indivisible spirit and blood, indiscernible body from soul.

Not men's, but man's is the glory of godhead, the kingdom of time,

The mountainous ages made hoary with snows for the spirit to climb.

This is patently from Mazzini, but the idea has been converted from the deistic service to which he puts it, to the service and expression of a downright Pantheism to which it belongs—a Pantheism (in Swinburne) that almost inevitably traces back its metaphysics to Blake, and its ethics to Blake and Landor. For Blake (as summed up by Swinburne) had taught : “God is no more than man : *because* man is no less than God” ; that “those who calumniate . . . great men hate God, for there is no other God” (264) ; and Landor had taught what was practically the doctrine of the divinity of “great” men.

The idea of the divinity of the “great” is expressed in this collection in a number of poems : the earliest, perhaps, being “On the Downs” where (almost in the exact words used by a commenter, on Blake quoted in Swinburne’s essay) it is urged : “There is no God, O son, if thou be none.” It is evident again in poems that are probably later than the “Hymn of Man,” such as the “Epilogue.” It is evident in “Hertha,” related closely in time (and in some ideas) to the “Hymn.” It is an idea inevitable in an individualist of Swinburne’s temper and training. But the fact remains that, as it were led up to Mazzini’s opinion by this

CHAPTER VIII. individualism, he abandons the individualism during splendid intervals, and gives to Mazzini's creed dramatic utterance that has in it the very throb and pulse and light of personal feeling and faith.

"The great men of the earth are but the marking-stones on the road to humanity" (265).

"Individuals die, but the amount of good they have thought, and the sum of good they have done, dies not with them. The men who pass over their graves reap the benefit thereof, and Humanity gathers it up" (266). So, Mazzini. And Swinburne responds (in one of most perfect of those rare intervals in which he adequately conceives the necessarily slow progression of the ideal he seeks) :

We pray not, we to behold
 The latter august new birth,
 The young day's purple and gold,
 And divine, and risen as of old,
 The sun-god freedom on earth.

All we ask is :

To feel on our brows as we wait
 An air of the morning, a breath
 From the springs of the east, from the gate
 Whence freedom issues and fate,
 Sorrow and triumph and death.

Seeing each life given is a leaf
 Of the manifold multiform flower,
 And the least among these, and the chief,
 As an ear in the red-ripe sheaf
 Stored for the harvesting hour.

("Tenebrae.")

In one other poem, “The Pilgrims” (267) (the completest of Swinburne’s pictures of those who follow the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive because it seeth him not neither knoweth him), the same idea of voluntary sacrifice for a cause, and for humanity, finds expression in words of everlasting significance :

The Questioners. Pass on then and pass by us and let us be,
 For what light think ye after death to see ?
 And if the world fare better will ye know ?
 And if man triumph, who shall seek you and say ?

The Pilgrims. Enough of light is this for one life’s span
 That all men born are mortal but not man :
 And we men bring death lives by night to sow
 That man may reap and eat and live by day.

In yet other poems the reflex of Mazzini’s doctrine is luminous : the assurance that with these Martyrs of Faith it is well, with these who, in Mazzini’s words “loved life, . . . loved the beings who made that life dear” ; to whom every impulse of their hearts cried *Live!* but who, for the salvation of generations to come chose to die (268) ; who thus satisfied the law of their being, which is association, and the law of human progress. Such an assurance is evident in the “Ode on the Insurrection in Candia,” and its tribute to the patriot dead :

O kings and queens and nations miserable,
 O fools and blind and full of sins and fears,
 With these it is, with you it is not well ;
 Ye have an hour, but these the immortal years ;

such is evident in “A Marching Song” (“We have the morning star, O foolish people, O

CHAPTER VIII. kings ! ”) and (most perfectly) in “ Super Flumina Babylonis ” :

Unto each man his handiwork, unto each his crown,
 The just Fate gives ;
 Whoso takes the world’s life on him and his own lays down,
 He, dying so, lives.

Whoso bears the whole heaviness of the wronged world’s
 weight
 And puts it by,
 It is well with him suffering, though he face man’s fate ;
 How should he die ?

Such a man, for Mazzini, was reincarnated
 “ from life to life, from world to world ” for
 continuous progress : and watched over and
 brought inspiration to the cause he had served
 when on earth (269). Swinburne’s poem
 continues :

For an hour, if ye look for him, he is no more found,
 For one hour’s space ;
 Then you lift up your eyes to him and behold him crowned,
 A deathless face.

Such men, for Mazzini, were as we have seen
 “ but marking stones on the road of humanity.”
 “ There is yet something greater, more divinely
 mysterious, than all the great men, and this is
 the earth which bears them, the human race
 which includes them, the thought of God which
 stirs within them, and which the whole human
 race collectively can alone accomplish. Disown
 not, then, the common mother for the sake of
 certain of her children, however privileged they
 may be . . . ” (270).

It is just here that Swinburne draws away

from him, affirming that those men who choose ^{CHAPTER} VIII. the arduous path of service, who live by the unsweet fruit of self-sacrifice,

In the end men follow and know for very God.

(*Genesis.*)

He thus upholds *Individualism* against Mazzini's *Association*.

Furthermore (increasing the divergence) he practises the doctrine, not only in worshipping great men, but in arrogating to himself, as though by right of inherent superiority, a vituperative scorn for men who oppose and impede. This was not Mazzini's doctrine for the era of Collectivism; for he taught "Speak your thoughts boldly, and make known your wants courageously; but *without anger, without reaction, and without threats*. The strongest menace—if indeed there be those for whom threats are necessary—will be the firmness, not the irritation of your speech" (271). It was not Mazzini's doctrine for the Poet (specially privileged, as Mazzini allows genius to be) in the age of Collectivism; for the new social poetry he foresaw (in 1847) was to "soothe the suffering soul by teaching it to rise towards God through humanity" (272).

But it was the practice of poets in the age of Individualism—tolerated, if not praised, by Mazzini in the practice of Goethe and Byron (273), and accepted by Swinburne, in part at least, in consequence of his service of Landor, and his likeness in spirit to him.

If there is any doubt of this, any doubt that Swinburne (except on exceptional occasions

CHAPTER VIII. already shown) was temperamentally distinct from Mazzini, and really no exponent of the doctrine of the duty and necessity of love and association, it should dissipate in the light thrown by the "Prelude" to these songs. The poem has been explained in an earlier chapter and its whole philosophy related to Landor. Little is necessary here but to confirm the relation, first by showing how unlike Mazzini's this philosophy is, and then by showing how like is its exercise in *Songs before Sunrise* to its exercise in Landor's poems and prose on political affairs.

The contrast with Mazzini, it must be noticed, is one of temper, the *impulse* for action, and *manner* of it, rather than the action itself. But even so the contrast is severe. For Mazzini preached an Apostolate, valid through service not succession, strong by support of Duty, humble because of that necessity of association laid upon all men who would progress or aid progression: conscious that "history is not the biography of great men; the history of mankind is the history of the progressive religion of mankind, and of the translation by symbols, or external actions, of that religion" (274). Landor embodied and inspired a knight errantry, valid in its own proud strength, serene in the companionship of kindred souls and the belief that the history of these is the essential of human history: "Of all studies the most delightful and the most useful is biography. The seeds of great events lie near the surface: historians delve too deep for them" (275).

The "Prelude" leaves no doubt as to which of

these systems it adopts. Its "Youth," instructed by "Time," stands up and treads to dust, <sup>CHAPTER
VIII.</sup> doubts, faiths, fears.

To him the lights (276) of even and morn
 Speak no vain thoughts of love and scorn,
 Fancies and passions miscreate
 By men in things dispassionate.
 Nor holds he fellowship forlorn
 With souls that pray and hope and hate
 And doubt they had better not been born,
 And fain would lure or scare off fate
 And charm their doomsman from their doom
 And make fear dig its own false tomb.

His own soul is his one sole guide ; drawing light indeed from the souls of other men, "in whom the light of trust (was) one"—but maintaining its own constant flame,

Since only souls that keep their place
 By their own light and watch things roll
 And stand, have light for any soul.

For such an one, a "soul free," "good works," such as loose the bonds in which all mankind suffers, are, it seems, the natural expression. But how such good works are to be done by one who holds no fellowship with souls that pray and hope and hate, and are supposedly by these very things bound, the poem does not determine. Nor need we be over-anxious to discover : not when we find Swinburne entirely disregarding his occasional belief in the oneness of Humanity (established by Mazzini in the "Hymn of Man" and by Blake and Arnold in "Hertha" (277), and assailing kings and priests and tyrannies in a manner that leaves it for unmistakable inference

that they are apart from the rest, the one great weight upon man's spirit constraining it from freedom : a manner that is Landor's—and hardly any one's but his, though Landor bestows it on Milton, making him profess it : " At least be (my hand) instrumental in removing from the earth a few of her heaviest curses ; a few of the oldest and worst impediments to liberty and wisdom . . . mitres, tiaras, crowns, and the trumpery whereon they rest " (278).

The *Song for the Centenary of Landor* is (as we have seen) very complete evidence that Swinburne thoroughly sympathised with this important part of Landor's activity. It records that song was a shadowy sword to him, wrought to put all evil things to flight. He struck dumb the lying and the hungering mouths of priests ; he scourged kings and living slaves with the fiery word of his scorn ; he mocked and spat upon the Lord their God whom they had erected tyrant of the skies as they were tyrants and lords of earth, and he would have it that these things being slain, the spirit alone should be Lord and God. *Songs before Sunrise* is as complete evidence that Swinburne set himself to emulate this.

The time was favourable, certainly, for such emulation, seeing that many of the usurpers, perjurors, blasphemers, " false gods that make earth hell," of Landor's *communions* still remained for his disciple's attention ; seeing too that his last occasional attacks on them were by no means antiquated during the period of *Songs before Sunrise*, but matters of fresh memory, since his final volume came out in 1863, and un-

published fragments from his Roman hand were reaching Swinburne as late as 1869 (279). In particular, there remained Louis Napoleon (whom Swinburne reserved for treatment in *Songs of Two Nations*) and Pius IX., the "infidel who assumes in mockery the Crown of Christ, who calls himself God's vicegerent, subverts His attributes, effaces His laws, and stamps upon His image" of one of Landor's letters (280); still reigning, and still exercising in Italy the pernicious influence for disunity and demoralisation, with whose continuous exercise one of Landor's quietest, and certainly his gravest, criticisms had charged the Papacy (281).

Swinburne's method of dealing with the latter of these individuals, or of dealing generally with priests and kings, is essentially Landorian. The very terms of abuse, "He who hath claws like a vulture" and "a wolf cub his life-giving Lamb" (addressed to Pio Nono), are no more than variants of Landor's—"The Roman Vulture" (282) and "Rome's old wolf" (283); and the "King-snakes," the "fanged meridian vermin" ("A Marching Song") are, again, no departure from Landor's terminology—his "fanged reptiles lifting high their crested heads" (284).

There is, however, one important difference between Swinburne and Landor in the abuse of kings and priests. For Swinburne, the process implicates the faith they possess. For Landor, it nearly does: but only "nearly": an extract from a poem to two missionaries, the first lines of which (not quoted here) suggest Swinburne's "Pilgrims," will serve to illustrate:

I will believe that Christianity
(Merciful God ! forgive the manifold
Adulteries with her valets and her grooms,
Rank gardeners and wheezing manciples !)
Is now of service to the earth she curst
With frauds perpetual, intermittent fires,
And streams of blood that intersect the globe :
I will believe it : none shall kill my faith
While men like thee are with us. Kings conspire
Against their God. . . . [etc. etc.]

(viii. 150.)

Furthermore, even when there are no " Pilgrims " to prove it to him he believes in Christianity, maintaining always a devout reverence for its divine Founder, and casting the burden of errant religion on the shoulders of those in whom it erred : " The religion of Christ is peace and good will ; the religion of Christendom is war and ill will " (285). " Cannot we agree to show the nations of the world that the whole of Christianity is practicable ; although the better parts never have been practised, no, not even by the priesthood in any single one of them " (286).

For Swinburne the case is different. With Mazzini he forgoes belief in the 'divinity of Christ ; and thus addresses the Crucified in one of the most moderate of the stanzas of his meditation " Before a Crucifix. "

The tree of faith ingrafted by priests
Puts its foul foliage out above thee,
And round it feed man-eating beasts
Because of whom we dare not love thee ;
Though hearts reach back and memories ache
We cannot praise thee for their sake (287).

At the same time, though Landor is, professedly, orthodox, and Swinburne heterodox,

there is no essential distinction between their CHAPTER
VIII. secular literary use of circumstances in the life of our Lord. The Anointing, the Agony, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection become metaphors of Freedom—especially in Swinburne. In “Siena” he describes himself as having sat and wept under the cross of Italia, slain and raised again. In “Super Flumina Babylonis” the metaphor is expanded, to include Calvary, Gethsemane, and the grave-clothes found folded up in the grave’s gloom (288); “The Litany of Nations” appeals to earth,

By the blood-sweat of the people in the garden, inwalled by kings;

“Before a Crucifix” sees, in the transfix’d figure on the cross, the semblance of humanity, martyred by kings and priests :

And Priests against the mouth divine
Push their sponge full of poison yet
And bitter blood for myrrh and wine,
And on the same reed it is set
Wherewith before they buffeted
The peoples’ disanointed head.

This image may derive from Mazzini. In 1870 he accused the Council of crucifying humanity on Calvary, and was then possibly repeating a metaphor he had turned before. But for flagrant completeness it is doubtful whether it has any parallel outside the works of Landor—outside what is perhaps the richest of Landor’s poems, “Regeneration” (289). He describes the condition of Italy, and appeals to the nations to spring to life, moved by the breath of God.

SWINBURNE AND LANDOR

et the last work of his right hand appear
Fresh with his image, Man. Thou recreant slave
That sittest afar off and helpest not,
O thou degenerate Albion ! with what shame
Do I survey thee, pushing forth the sponge
At thy spear's length, in mockery at the thirst
Of holy Freedom in his agony,
And prompt and keen to pierce the wounded side !

(vii. 461.)

“Regeneration” must by this same token have served Swinburne in yet another, and a more important way—by implanting in him the doctrine of the duty of international sympathy and aid. Landor (290) enforced the lesson elsewhere. And there was Mazzini, as we have seen, to nourish and sustain it.

But not only Mazzini: for the time and liberalism urged the same duty. England—in Swinburne’s words—had “passed among the faded nations”: for a time. “Our sins of commission”—so wrote John (now Lord) Morley in 1867—“are not so very many. But the things left undone that we ought to do are countless. An energetic, full-blooded and generous initiative is no more seen. Under our present set of social conventions it is for ever impossible.” He called attention to the condition of anarchy prevailing on the Continent, the certainty of Franco-German war, and to the circumstance that gave to these conditions their fatal vitality—“the premeditated absence from the scene of the only nation which could possibly quell or restrain the violence of these detestable animosities.” Meanwhile, the Peace-at-any-Price men were vociferous at home with “Schleswig-

SONGS BEFORE SUNRISE

Holstein or Poland or Luxemburg, is nothing to ^{us,} mindless that "national morality involves ^{VIII.} positive obligations" (291).

Swinburne took up the cry. And if more shrilly than others, it may be forgiven him, because of external history alone. For a "republican who was also an Englishman" could hardly take delight in the incidents then evolving under his eyes—the State reception, for instance, Queen's kindness, Spithead Review, and what not, accorded to his malignity Abdul-Assiz of Turkey in the same year that had seen the commiseration of his tyrannised subjects in the "Ode on the Insurrection in Candia"; or the patronage afforded to "Eyre Pascha" (292) of the legalised Jamaica massacres by some of the greatest writers then living in England, Carlyle, Ruskin, and Tennyson (293); or the too harsh justice meted out to the Fenian conspirators of Manchester, despite public protest and one earnest (Mazzini-praised) poetic "Appeal" (294) from the Singer of *Songs before Sunrise*.

It is only when he is mindful of these things and their like that Swinburne's song on England grows shrill—into the "royalties rust-eaten," the "masters of thee, mindless" of "A Marching Song." It is they who have turned her sea-like sounded name to laughter. But those things are forgotten, in the prophetic brooding of a "Watch in the Night" on the dishonour of her national sleep; in the light of that marching Freedom in the "Halt before Rome," who looks back appealingly on her who once bore up the weight of man's liberty. Glad and immemorial things

CHAPTER VIII. are remembered of her as the song advances, because of which the poet calls upon her to arise. Even in the stern reproof of “Perinde ac Cadaver,” Liberty invokes her :

O Cromwell’s mother, O breast
That suckled Milton !

In “A Marching Song” she is “Milton’s England,” “thou that wast his republic.”

In “The Litany of Nations” she appeals :

By the star that Milton’s soul for Shelley lighted,
Whose rays ensphere us ;
By the beacon-bright Republic far off sighted,
(*Cho.*) O mother, hear us.

It is inevitable that this should be so : that the poet of the universal republic should invoke England by her supreme republican names. But it is doubly inevitable because of his relationship with Landor. We have seen how Landor is saved from profaning England in his poem “To Shelley (295), as it were by light of that remembered name. The glory in Milton and another brought him to his knees in as perfect a reverence :

The rivulets and mountain-rills of Greece
Will have dried up while Avon still runs on ;
And those four rivers freshening Paradise
Gush yet, tho’ Paradise had long been lost
Had not one man restored it ; he was ours.
Not song alone detain’d him, tho’ the song
Came from the lips of Angels upon his,
But strenuous action when his country call’d. . . .
(viii. 299.)

It is for such men’s sake that Landor praises England :

England ! I glory that mine eyes
First open’d on thy sterner skies,

Where the most valiant of mankind
Bear gentlest hearts.

CHAPTER
VIII.

(viii. 251.)

And again and again he returns to do Milton reverence :

One man above all other men is great,
Even on this globe, where dust obscures the sign.
God closed his eyes to pour into his heart
His own pure wisdom. In chill house he sate,
Fed only on those fruits the hand divine
Disdain'd not, thro' his angels, to impart;

(viii. 215)

to which may be added the comment on *Samson Agonistes* (vv. 265-277), “ Verses worthier of a sovran poet, sentiments worthier of a pure, indomitable, inflexible republican, never issued from the human heart ”; added because of its nobility and because of Swinburne’s praise : “ No other of all the most glorious among our countrymen could have paid to the crowning work of Milton such a tribute as this of Landor’s ” (296).

It is for such men’s sake that England in “ The Eve of Revolution ” is not yet written among the nations that fell ; for the sake of these that England is bidden

Live, thou must not be dead,
Live ; let thine armèd head
Lift itself up to sunward and the fair
Daylight of time and man,
Thine head republican,
With the same splendour on thine helmless hair
That in his eyes kept up a light
Who on thy glory gazed away his sacred sight ;

By those eyes blinded and that heavenly head
 And the secluded soul adorable,
 O Milton's land, what ails thee to be dead ?
 Thine ears are yet sonorous with his shell
 Such sons were of thy womb,
 England, for love of whom
 Thy name is not yet writ with those that fell,
 But, till thou quite forget
 What were thy children, yet
 On the pale lips of hope is as a spell ;
 And Shelley's heart and Landor's mind
 Lit thee with latter watch-fires ; why wilt thou be blind ?

It is for the sake of such men that the *Songs before Sunrise* were sung : and chief of them all, for Swinburne, is Landor, hater of kings and priests, lover of Greece and Italy and England and Liberty. The tones of his Roman trumpet sound among the shriller and more rapturous music blown from the silver throat of his disciple's instrument ; and the inspiration of his life-long blast is discernible in the very act by which the disciple put aside the plaintive but perfect reed of his early fancy and assumed the symbol of manhood and mission, crying :

I set the trumpet to my lips and blow.

V. SONGS OF TWO NATIONS

With the poems gathered under the title of *Songs of Two Nations* we may deal briefly. The "Song of Italy" has already been described. The "Ode on the Proclamation of the French Republic" is an adoration of the ideal Universal Republic seen with too foreseeing eyes as be-

ginning with the new régime in France ; and it ~~CHAPTER~~ ^{VIII.} further emphasises the principles of Swinburne's political and poetic theory already dealt with : his rash if magnificent optimism, his overweening confidence in the Republican idea. The sonnet sequence "Dirae" alone remains ; and of these there is but one, the last, that anger does not mar. Some were praised by Hugo, and may have been written in some measure to deserve this praise. They are vituperative ; and their vituperation, though not of the gutter as is Hugo's in his perverse moments, has a Hugo-esque rancour. But they make use of all extreme and wild things, reaching out in "Mentana," for instance, for the aid of Shakespeare's Margaret, praying for Richard's death (*Richard III.* iv. 3). They may also make use of Landor's imaginary conversation between Nicholas and Diogenes in the midst of Hell. But it is impossible to prove this in a collection of poems that borrows from Dante.

In one poem only is it possible to discover a note clearly related to Landor's. This is the last, the *one* perfect, beginning

If wrath embitter the sweet mouth of song, etc.

Spontaneous as may be the criticism it gives of the preceding poems in the series, it is just that of Landor's "Boccaccio on Dante" : "Of all the sins against the spirit of poetry (unrelenting rancour) is the most unpardonable" (297).

CHAPTER IX

FOR GREECE AND ATHENS

“ERECHTHEUS” (1875) AND “ATHENS : AN ODE” (1881)

Most ardent and most awful and most fond,
The fervour of his Apollonian eye
Yearned over Hellas, yet enthralled in bond
Of time whose years beheld her and passed by
Silent and shameful, till she rose and donned
The casque again of Pallas ; for her cry
Forth of the past and future, depths beyond
This where the present and its tyrants lie,
As one great voice of twain
For him had pealed again,
Heard but of hearts high as her own was high,
High as her own and his
And pure as love’s heart is,
That lives though hope at once and memory die :
And with her breath his clarion’s blast
Was filled as cloud with fire or future souls with past.
(SWINBURNE : *Song for the Centenary of Landor.*)

CHAPTER IX. IN his first *Poems and Ballads* Swinburne made his confession of faith in Greece. “Phaedra”—or better “Anactoria,” since “Phaedra” is rather out of Seneca than Euripides—is a monument in “a baser and later language” to the “divine words which even when a boy (he) could not but

recognise as divine." The confession is yet completer in *Atalanta in Calydon*, both in the flawless Greek dedicatory verses and in the text of the drama itself. The poet has learned, for the occasion at least, to think as did his Greek masters. His sentiment and his thought, except perhaps in the more violent choruses, recall many passages from the Greek dramatists; his syntax and cadence, even his vision, seem Greek also, the last in its ability to discover immediately, as it were, the essential sense-quality of the objects described.

Another aspect of his love for Greece appears in the "Ode on the Insurrection in Candia," "The Eve of Revolution," and "The Litany of Nations" of his *Songs before Sunrise*. In these poems, despite Mazzini and the preoccupation of the volume with Italian themes, a very perfect passion for Greece, present and past, is evident: nowhere more convincing than in the first-named poem :

Had I words of fire
Whose words are weak as snow;
Were my heart a lyre
Whence all its love might flow
In the mighty modulations of desire,
In the notes wherewith men's passion worships woe :

Could my song release
The thought weak words confine,
And my grief, O Greece,
Prove how it worships thine,
It would move with pulse of war the limbs of peace
Till she flashed and trembled and became divine.

But more important even than these, as

~~CHAPTER~~ expressing this passion, is the greatest (though not ~~IX.~~ the most loved) of his classical dramas, *Erechtheus*, and his long "Ode to Athens."

In all these poems his spontaneous Hellenism is plain—the sincerity of his love and the sympathy of his genius for things Greek. It was because of this that he was the only Englishman who could write Greek, as Headlam, perhaps the foremost Greek scholar of that time, wrote of (and to) him. They were affections and powers bred in his bone, as it were.

And yet—he had spiritual ancestors.

His glory in Greek culture and his passion for the political regeneration of Greece are of a sort that must have been old-fashioned even in 1860 or 1870. They identify his mood with that of the eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century humanists, who might well have said of themselves (as Landor's Horne Tooke says to his Johnson,—but with a different accent), "The liberation of Greece is the heirloom of our dreams" (298). He belongs with those three great "children of the eighteenth-century political idea" with whom he claims kinship: Byron, Shelley, and (the sturdiest Hellene of them all) Landor.

Only for these Englishmen, as for him, was Greece

The land of the royallest race,
The most holy land.

Without doubt he was much affected by Byron's, and more especially by Shelley's example. The lyric fervour of *Hellas* was some-

thing he could understand. Yet what he says of Landor and his devotion to the Greek cause (quoted as chapter heading) makes it clear that he felt peculiarly sustained by this practice. It is natural that he should have felt so. For though Shelley and Landor have exactly the same belief as to the importance of Greek civilisation, bold as Shelley may be, as in the preface to *Hellas*, Landor has passages in the *Conversations* that are even bolder :

Dignity of thought arose from the Athenian form of government, propriety of expression from the genius of the language, from the habitude of listening daily to the most elaborate orations and dramas, and of contemplating at all hours the exquisite works of art, invited to them by Gods and heroes (299).

And again :

Greece ought to be preserved and guarded by the rulers of the world, as a cabinet of gems, open and belonging to them all. . . . To Greece is owing the conversation we hold together . . . the very city in which we hold it; its wealth, its power, its equity, its liberality (300).

Then there is much besides—Conversations between classic heroes, as that in which Sophocles and Pericles extol the glory of Athens, or in which Scipio and Polybius discourse on the same high theme : “What Aspasia (anywhere else) led Philosophy to smile on Love, or taught Love to reverence Philosophy ?” or, perhaps most important, that so nearly complete resurrection of heroic Greece which is the *Hellenics*, the work which, as has been shown, first captured Swinburne’s devotion for Landor.

CHAPTER
IX.

So read, therefore, so trained, it is but natural that Swinburne should have made love of Greece a dominant theme in his poetry.

Because of his love for Greece, he is with these, and all great poets, in yet other aspects of thought and feeling. At least it would seem so. For there is only a little sturdy faith in his poetry before it espouses the Greek theme, and comparatively little wide social feeling, whereas an entirely different situation obtains after this theme has come to prominence. This it did in the "Ode on the Insurrection in Candia" (1866-1867), and in this poem, for the first time, maturely and without reservation, Swinburne revealed himself as possessing what no poet can lack and be great: positive faith, and, in his own words, fervid pity and passionate compassion for all the oppressions that are done beneath the sun.

We have seen this spirit growing as he grew, beginning with that Landorian oblique arraignment of Napoleon III. in *The Queen Mother* and its equally Landorian eulogy of the idea of "freedom"; taken up in certain of the *Poems and Ballads*, and in *Atalanta* as well, where the protest against "oppressive heaven" is merely a counterpart of the unremitting pity for all human ills with whose burden the poem is oppressed; partially fulfilled in "Hesperia," in the lament for Landor in *Poems and Ballads* and in that second episode of *Atalanta* whose glory is its picture of Landor and its praise of such a noble life and desirable death as were his.

This spirit came to flower in *Songs before*

FOR GREECE AND ATHENS

Sunrise, treated in the foregoing chapters, but ~~CHAPTER~~ its perfection is even greater in the work that ~~CHAPTER~~ IX next occupied Swinburne's attention, *Erechtheus*, especially when this is considered in relation to *Atalanta in Calydon*. Fate, in the earlier drama, is the dominant theme. Such Landorian heroisms as we have shown are only interludes for it; only interludes also are the two or three other heroic sentiments given in the same drama (generally in connection with Meleager). But in *Erechtheus* the situation is reversed: heroism prevails—will to pluck service and glory from the day, be it fair or foul. And it is fate that is interluded. The very premise from which the drama develops is resignation and trust in the gods, love of life and country, and delight in vicarious sacrifice. A new happiness as well as a new reverence prevails, and the “lips that were so loud, so long,” with protest or blasphemy, are sweet with honey of praise—for life and heroic opportunity to serve it:

For lovely is life, and the law wherein all things live,
And gracious the season of each, and the hour of its kind,
And precious the seed of his life in a wise man's mind;
But all save life for his life will a base man give.
But a life that is given for the life of the whole live land,
From a heart unspotted a gift of a spotless hand,
Of pure will perfect and free, for the land's life's sake,
What man shall fear not to put forth his hand and take?

In noticing this noble advance in Swinburne's development, Landor and all other possible aids to it must be put out of mind for the moment, or allowed only minor consideration. It is the really inexplicable development of genius that

CHAPTER is the important fact, in this as in every case. **IX.** Yet Swinburne declared that Landor had much to do with it. And we merely record this. Doubtless others of his heroes were *also* contributory to it—Mazzini, for instance, whose dogma of humanity, treated in the last chapter, seems to have expression here in the more-than Greek praise of the glory of sacrifice. Shelley is here, Milton, and, of course, the Greek masters: Aeschylus furnishes the suggestion for the fifth great chorus with its marine picture of the battle on land, and Sophocles has been but a little exceeded in the praise here poured out before Athens, for

... time nor earth nor changing sons of man,
Nor waves of generations, nor the winds
Of ages risen and fallen that steer their tides
Through light and dark of birth and lovelier death,
From storm toward haven inviolable, shall see
So great a light alive beneath the sun
As the aweless eye of Athens. . . .

Erechtheus seems to have been written in the summer of 1875. In 1881 Swinburne took up the song of Greece again in the “Ode to Athens,” and once more before his death in “For Greece and Crete” in 1897.

One new phase of feeling must be noticed in the earlier of these two poems. A little of the glory of Athenian godhead has fallen in it upon England; and the poet who but a few years before had given riotous praise and abuse to Elizabethan seamen and their Spanish enemies in “The Armada: an Ode,” finds opportunity to reintroduce the better part of the same theme:

FOR GREECE AND ATHENS

Sons of Athens born in spirit and truth are all born freemen ; CHAPTER IX.
Most of all, we nurtured where the north wind holds his reign :
Children all we seafolk of the Salaminian seamen,
Sons of them that beat back Persia they that beat back
Spain.

And with this he gives one more proof of his connection with the Phil-Hellenes of the early century, not least among whom, in words that are only a variation of those already quoted from Landor, records that “ Our laws, our literature, our religion, our arts have their root in Greece.” “ We are all Greeks.”

CHAPTER X

“ THALASSIUS ”

And fear the song too taught him : fear to be
Worthless the dear love of the wind and sea
That bred him fearless, like a sea-mew reared
In rocks of man's foot feared
Where nought of wingless life may sing or shine,
Fear to wax worthless of that heaven he had
When all the life in all his limbs was glad.

• • • •
Fear to go crownless of the flower he wore,
When the winds loved him and the waters knew.

(Thalassius.)

CHAPTER X. THE foregoing chapters have described chiefly the sympathy between Landor's and Swinburne's political opinions and temper. “They were “children of the eighteenth-century idea”—“children that never grew up.” We come now to other points of contact between them. These relate to their feeling for Nature and their belief about Love. Strange as it may seem at first thought, Swinburne testifies that Landor affected him, for good, in both of these matters ; that even the most intimate of all his loves, that for the sea, was made nobler by Landor's teaching, and that his conception of love itself responded in the same way to that influence. An examina-

‘ THALASSIUS ’

tion of the prevailing circumstances shows that the testimony is true. Landor's opinion on these subjects, especially when accepted and perhaps magnified by the avid spirit of his disciple, possesses singular beauty and great moral value. Swinburne's development shows a steady response to just such moral instruction.

Swinburne's feeling for nature, especially for the sea, is too well known to need any general description here. Landor's, however, is little known, except perhaps in so far as Swinburne has shown it in the splendid line from “Regeneration” he quotes as prelude to his own marine meditation, “By the North Sea” :

We are what suns and winds and waters make us.

It would be hard to find another line that so succinctly states the naturalistic philosophy of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. And it must at once be evident that it involves a definite ethical teaching, particularly for any one who maintained (as Swinburne did) a deep and passionate love for “suns and winds and waters.” There is not another closely resembling it in content elsewhere in Landor's poems, though there are many poems showing a singularly tender love for nature. But there are important expressions of the same idea in his prose. Reference has already been made, in an earlier chapter, to one of these passages. But it is pertinent again. “I assemble and arrange my thoughts with freedom and with pleasure in the forest air, under the open sky.” So he says through his Epicurus. “Many a froward axiom, many an inhuman

CHAPTER X. thought, hath arisen . . . from hearing a few unpleasant sounds, from the confinement of a gloomy chamber, or from the want of symmetry in it. We are not aware of this until we find an exemption from it in groves, on promontories, or along the sea-shore, or wherever else we meet Nature face to face, undisturbed and solitary" (301). Not a lover of the sea to any such extent as was Swinburne, his feeling for it comes to light in yet other Conversations, nowhere more beautifully than where he makes Sidney remind Lord Brooke of their experiences during a walk by the sea, and how, "when our conversation paused a while in the stillness of midnight, we heard the distant waves break heavily. Their sound, you remarked, was such as you could imagine the sound of a giant might be, who, coming back from travel into some smooth and level and still and solitary place, with all his armour and all his spoils about him, casts himself slumberously down to rest" (302). To this there should be added a commentary from yet another context, explaining the significance of beauty :

I do believe that beauty, in its early innocence, has something of what, for want of a better and more definite name, we call ethereal ; something pure and rapid, something that stands impassably between us and evil, and holds our little world from ruin and corruption, something that unites us here in love and amity, inasmuch as what is mortal can be united, and converts us at last to itself in fulness and perfection. (vi. 282.)

In all of these quotations there will be noticed, explicit or implicit, the naturalistic philosophy that was so popular with some of Landor's early

contemporaries. It is not mere sensuous delight in nature they express, and he with them, but a reason and interpretation of this for a moral end.

It is because of this philosophy, this turning to high moral account of a sensuous experience, that Landor was able to sanctify and sustain Swinburne's passion for the sea.

No other so superb and lasting passion ever moved Swinburne. But at its fervent beginning it was as independent as such a passion can be, and certainly demanded no reference of other activities to itself as a controlling principle. It was non-moral. “ Thalassius ” records how Landor made it moral.

First it was non-moral, or *nearly so* : and it was possible for the “ man foiled in love and weary of loving ” of *Poems and Ballads* (I.) to espouse the sea, or death, or moral anarchy as equally acceptable refuges from his distress. So the “ Triumph of Time,” his first great poem relating to the sea, witnesses :

I will go back to the great sweet mother,
Mother and lover of men, the sea,
I will go down to her, I and none other,
Close with her, kiss her, and mix her with me ;
Cling to her, strive with her, hold her fast ;
O fair white mother, in days long past
Born without sister, born without brother,
Set free my soul as thy soul is free.

Here there is, it must be admitted, moral aspiration in the last line ; but it is faint, and falls at once into disuse :

I shall go my ways, tread out my measure,
Fill the days of my daily breath

With fugitive things not good to treasure,
Do as the world doth, say as it saith.

For a while the sea becomes even a menace and the memorial of a curse : in this same poem, despite the sweetness of the tender heart, she is

Fair mother, fed with the lives of men,
Thou art subtle and cruel of heart, men say :
Thou hast taken and shall not render again ;
Thou art full of thy dead, and cold as they ;

and in later poems her lover comes to speak more and more like the unenamoured "men" of these lines. So he does in "A Lamentation," where no memory of things seen and heard at sea, wind and the division of waves, stars or sunrise, can dispel the sense of imminent doom :

Or ever the stars were made, or skies,
Grief was born and the kinless night. . . .

The situation remains practically unchanged throughout *Atalanta in Calydon*. Meleager has indeed seen great things, with his fellow-Argonauts ; but the general cry, even when the sea is remembered, is one of tribulation :

. . . thunder of storm on the sands,
And wailing of wives on the shore,
Loud shoals and shipwrecking reefs,
Fierce air and violent light ;
Sail rent and sundering oar,
Darkness and noises of night.

It is not until the first of the *Songs before Sunrise* came to be written that the sea became (what it thereafter remained in Swinburne's poems) a noble spiritual as well as a comforting physical presence. Especially is this evident in

two poems which have already been shown to ~~CHARTER~~
subscribe to Landor as in some degree their inspiration : the “ Prelude,” an aristocratic republican poem of the political school of Landor, closing (as so many of Swinburne’s later poems close) with a picture of the sea ; and the “ Eve of Revolution,” where England is invoked :

O thou, clothed round with raiment of white waves,
Thy brave brows brightening through the grey wet air,
Thou, lulled with sea-sounds of a thousand caves,
And lit with seashine to thine inland lair.

O by the centuries of thy glorious graves,
By the live light of the earth that was thy care,
Live. . . .

And the following stanzas go on to amplify this invocation—by the names of these glorious dead : Milton, Shelley, and Landor.

In *Erechtheus*, as the last chapter has shown, a crown of praise is placed on the brows of Athens. The circlet is a sea-coronal, a sea-tribute—though a tribute enforced, as it were,

Torn from the wave’s edge whitening,

that her head should “ wear worship for a garland.”

By the time the “ Ode to Athens ” came to be written, city and sea are friends again. The Aeschylian and poetic necessity (present in *Erechtheus*) of making Athens represent the land and her enemies the battering sea is over. All that is remembered concerns Salamis and the “ Salaminian seamen,” who made liberty and the sea a dual glory. And this is typical of Swinburne’s feeling whenever he moralises about

CHAPTER X. the sea during his entire maturity. It is an emblem of liberty. It is also more than this, for it functions both as cause and as symbol of an aspiration which is essentially religious.

Other writers had expressed just such an aspiration : Landor, as we have seen in the quotations just given, where he shows himself responsive to the beneficence of Nature met face to face, undisturbed and solitary, in groves, on promontories, or along the sea-shore ; Shelley, even more than Landor (though each expresses with individual emphasis the same eighteenth-century romance of distance) :

. . . I love all waste
And solitary places ; where we taste
The pleasure of believing what we see
Is boundless, as we wish our souls to be :

And Swinburne, coming after them, only restates the underlying thought. He does not change it ; he does not give it, especially as compared with Shelley, any new significance ; but he does colour it with his own peculiar loves, of heroes and the sea itself. . .

Sometimes his delight in sea-spaces is simple —the delight of a bird in the air, of wind in an open moor. He follows every shift of waves visible from skyline to shore ; exults in the breach or lapse of water, in foam on reefs, or the pulse of the tide felt among creeks and inlets, “lined and paven with sea flowers” (as in those desolate salt marshes of Dunwich which “Off Shore” and “By the North Sea” make so memorable). But the desolate miles and changeless leagues grow, soon, too narrow a

confine for him : and there comes as it were an ^{CHAPTER} extension of horizons giving out into the infinite. X.
 Here he hovers, brooding and content ; or if he send his soul out, it comes back with no assurance or answer, yet with peace :

Slowly, gladly, full of peace and wonder
 Grows his heart who journeys here alone.
 Earth and all its thoughts sink under
 Deep as deep in water sinks a stone.

He even seeks out, as though to heighten this sense of spiritual liberation, some vantage point toward the Arctic ocean, finding comfort in the thought that these waters are limitless :

These whereby we stand no shore beyond us limits, these are free.
 Gazing hence, we see the water that grows iron round the Pole,
 From the shore that hath no shore beyond it set in all the sea.

His meditation here may be thought unprofitable. At least it is genuine, and he strove to give it no factitious appeal :

Friend, who knows if death indeed have life, or life have death for goal ?
 Silence answering only strikes response reverberate on the soul
 From the shore that hath no shore beyond it set in all the sea.

Then there come more auspicious seasons—when he himself is dissatisfied with mere negation. The spacious sea sets his spirit roaming ; and it returns assured. In one great poem (“ In the Bay ”) his spirit longs for the companionship of Marlowe and of Shelley :

Above the soft sweep of the breathless bay,
 South-westward, far past flight of night and day,
 Lower than the sunken sunset sinks, and higher
 Than dawn can freak the front of heaven with fire,
 My thought with eyes and wings made wide makes way
 To find the place of souls that I desire.

If any place for any soul there be,
 Disrobed and disentrammelled ; if the might,
 The fire and force that filled with ardent light,
 The souls whose shadow is half the light we see,
 Survive, and be suppressed not of the night,—
 This hour should show what all day hid from me.

He is not soon assured, nor does he suddenly find them. There is doubt, search and question, pathetic appeal :

O well-beloved, our brethren, if ye be,
 Then are we not forsaken.

But at the end there is a deliberate confession of faith in some kind of immortality :

Ye rise not, and ye set not : we that say
 Ye rise and set like hopes that set and rise,
 Look yet but seaward from a land-locked bay ;
 But where at last the sea's line is the sky's,
 And truth and hope one sunlight in your eyes,
 No sunrise and no sunset marks their day.

It is safe to say that in hardly another circumstance in his published formal literary work—the circumstance is somewhat different in his private correspondence—does Swinburne allow himself similar liberty in confessing a faith of this sort : except one—where his expression is even more forceful than it is here. It is the circumstance, constantly recurring throughout

his life, in which he thinks of Landor. If one ^{CHAPTER}
 may use the figure he so often used, the horizon
 and sea over which his spirit broods seem to
 widen immeasurably, as beneath a sudden sun-
 rise, when the memory of this love comes upon
 them, giving back into measureless distance.
 It is so in that earliest lament for Landor which
 is the spiritual crown of *Poems and Ballads* (I.).
 There, by “the white wandering waste of sea,
 far north,” he hears of his master’s death, and
 yet appeals to him with a faith in his continued
 existence that becomes firmer as the poem
 progresses, up to the final acclamation—

royal and released,
 Soul, as thou art.

It is, but less certainly, so in the “Prelude” to
Songs before Sunrise, where, as has been shown,
 he is evidently thinking of Landor as one of the
 prophetic souls unresting,

who think long
 Till they discern as from a hill
 At the sun’s hour of morning song,
 Known of souls only, and those souls free,
 The sacred spaces of the sea.

It is so in the “Centenary” poem, and again
 in the last poem referring to Landor, “On the
 Death of Mrs. Lynn Linton”—in these last two
 cases unconnected with the sea. It is so
 obviously in “Thalassius,” witnessing as it does
 of one of the influences that made Swinburne’s
 splendidly sensuous love of the sea spiritual
 also, and changed his agnosticism into a posi-
 tive faith :

CHAPTER
X

And hope the high song taught him : hope whose eyes
Can sound the seas unsoundable, the skies
Inaccessible of eyesight ; that can see
What earth beholds not, hear what wind and sea
Hear not, and speak what all these crying in one
Can speak not to the sun.

.

CHAPTER XI

DE AMORE

For love the high song taught him : love that turns
God's heart toward man as man's to Godward : love
That life and death and life are fashioned of.

Love that, though body and soul were overthrown,
Should live for love's sake of itself alone,
Though spirit and flesh were one thing doomed and dead,
Not wholly annihilated.

(*Thalassius.*)

SWINBURNE here confesses that Landor taught CHAPTER
XI. him of Love : not Pandemos, but Urania. And it is now for us to review briefly those aspects of Landor's work and of Swinburne's which support this profession of allegiance.

Swinburne's praise of Landor's treatment of gentle and domestic love has already been given : for such themes are frequent among the "light verse" of Landor's that he so exuberantly praises in connection with extracts of it in Locker-Lampson's *Anthology* (303). His praise of Landor's treatment of tragic and mad passion is as readily forthcoming :

The very finest flower of his immortal dialogues is probably to be found in the single volume comprising only *Imaginary Conversations of Greeks and Romans* ;

CHAPTER XI. his utmost command of passion and pathos may be tested by its transcendent success in the distilled and concentrated tragedy of *Tiberius and Vipsania*, where for once he shows a quality more proper to romantic than classical imagination—the subtle and sublime and terrible power to enter the dark vestibule of distraction, to throw the whole force of his fancy, the whole fire of his spirit, into the “shadowing passion” (as Shakespeare calls it) of gradually imminent insanity (304).

Fortunately, Landor is in no need of a commentator to shape him to this praise: to those who know the power of his truly “distilled and concentrated” tragedies it will seem little more than adequate; to those who are not so informed, even such description as is possible here of his conception of love, will at least indicate that such praise is not misplaced. For Landor is not only the dramatist but the philosopher and essayist of love: and the spirit which makes luminous his most easily quotable passages on this subject is the same which lightens even his “vestibules of distraction.” No light of quite this perfect and mellow ray was displayed by any other of Swinburne’s heroes or associates—no message at once so tender and manly, serene and comprehensive, reasonable and mystical, was given him, perhaps at all.

Enough has already been said on some aspects of this topic in the chapter of transitions, where both Landor’s possible contribution to the passionnal and pagan elements of *Poems and Ballads* and his acknowledged aid in maturing Swinburne’s conception have been described: the first almost as fully as Landor’s not extensive

DE AMORE

treatment permits, the second in its negative rather than positive phase. This latter is of the first importance, for Landor believed with his Petrarca that "if love be holy, no sentiment is so essentially divine" (305), and made many of his characters the spokesmen of such a philosophy. Such a spokesman is his Beatrice, who reminds Dante in the Conversation that "love is the kindest and the gentlest breath of God" (306); or Aspasia, who sums up the matter :

CHAPTER
XI.

How wrong are all who for ever do not follow Love, under one form or another! There is no God but he, the framer, the preserver of the world, the pure Intelligence! All wisdom that is not enlightened and guided by him is perturbed and perverted (307).

Equally admirable is the delicacy with which Landor describes love, inarticulate, pensive, quiet.

"Could Sappho be ignorant how infantinely inarticulate is early love?" his Cleone replies to Aspasia as they discuss the alleged answer to the enamoured Alcaeus. "Could she be ignorant that shame and fear seize it unrelentingly by the throat, while hard-hearted impudence stands at ease, prompt at opportunity, and profuse in declarations?"

There is gloom in deep love, as in deep water: there is a silence in it which suspends the foot, and the folded arms and the dejected head are the images it reflects. No voice shakes the surface: the muses themselves approach it with a tardy and a timid step, and with a low and tremulous and melancholy song (308).

And as perfect and stately is his avowed belief in love's immortality :

CHAPTER XI. The heart that has once been bathed in love's pure fountain retains the pulse of youth for ever (809);

and again—

But we believe that our affections outlive us, and that Love is not a stranger in Elysium (310).

It is then with such precepts that the sea child was taught; with such high songs that he was instructed.

And these high songs he heard
More than all notes of any landward bird;

and learned how

 . . . the breath,
Too frail for life, may be more strong than death;
And this poor flash of Sense in life, that gleams
As a ghost's glory in dreams,
More stabile than the world's own heart's root seems,
By that strong faith of lordliest love which gives
To death's own sightless-seeming eyes a light
Clearer, to death's bare bones a verier might
Than shines or strikes from any man that lives.

So much for Swinburne's general conception of love as it was inspired by Landor. And now it may be permitted to point out how particular aspects of this conception show a sympathy with Landor which confirms the thesis of general inspiration as, in some measure, deriving from him. Swinburne's early poems—the series ending with *Atalanta in Calydon*—may have given little evidence of having been instructed of the divinity of love: as has been shown. There is, however, some evidence of it, already referred to in the opening chapter as witnessing to the truth of our early statement, that Swinburne and

Landor were spiritually akin: and this is the ~~CHAPTER~~
love of children. XL

But this sentiment in Swinburne establishes not only kinship but inheritance from Landor—and from that romantic tradition in this special connection which Landor represents. Swinburne must have loved children in no matter what age he was born (if one can imagine him born outside the nineteenth century); but it is certain that, coming when he did, his innate love was duly influenced by the eighteenth-century esteem of childhood. He praises the spirit as it is manifested in Landor, “the tender and ardent love for children . . . (which) makes fragrant alike the pages of his writing and the records of his life.” And, in praising this aspect of his master’s genius he sets his sign of acceptation upon what is sometimes as nearly infant worship as could be possibly expected outside the “Ode on the Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Childhood.” His own later poems are witness to this fact. And these are the sentiments he accepted :

How much fondness, how much generosity, what hosts of other virtues, courage, constancy, patriotism, spring into the father’s heart from cradle of his child.

These slender and graceful columns (children) are not only the ornament, but also the support of society. Men are the braver for the reverence they bear toward them, and in them do they find their reward.

The pleasure a man receives from his children resembles that which, with more propriety than any other, we may attribute to the Divinity.

The first result of this instruction in Swinburne’s

CHAPTER XI. poetry has already been commented on : the singularly lovely picture of Althaea and the infant Meleager in *Atalanta in Calydon*. This, it will be remembered, together with the picture of the "old man honourable" of the 3rd Episode, is the one light in a drama whose paths are dark indeed. The light grew ; and its perfect day gave birth to poems among the loveliest on children in our language—"The Salt of the Earth," "Étude Realiste," "Babyhood," "Not a Child," "Children,"—to name but a few of many whose perfection it is impossible to describe, scarcely possible to illustrate here except with fragments that wrong the whole from which they are taken. Their general music may however be caught in this single stave from "Babyhood" :

All heaven, in every baby born,
All absolute of earthly leaven,
Reveals itself, tho' man may scorn
All heaven.

Swinburne may be thought (with little perversion of the truth) to have been such a man—for when he was not scorning "oppressive heaven," as in *Atalanta*, he might not seldom be found abusing organised religion, and voiding his store of eighteenth-century anti-clerical spleen upon priests and priestcraft. But in the presence of children his bitterness is thrown into discard. In this connection, if priests be as he describes them in the last great poem that he wrote, "The Altar of Righteousness," then he is their opposite :

Priests gazed upon God in the eyes of a babe new-born, and
therein
Beheld not heaven and the wise glad secret of love, but sin.

For in the same poem he does reverence (so CHAPTER XI. long withheld) to "the child that we see in Christ," and lays his carol for tribute upon the manger of Bethlehem :

Then soft as the dews of night,
As the star of the sundown bright,
As the heart of the sea's hymn deep
And sweet as the balm of sleep
Arose on the world a light,
Too pure for the skies to keep.

This marks, surely, a far journey from *Poems and Ballads*, and the so avidly elaborated conception of the neo-pagan who in the "Hymn to Proserpine" glories in the birth of his Goddess, superb from the sea, and compares it with that of the Virgin—"weeping, a slave among slaves and rejected." It is a measure of Swinburne's development. And it is also in some intangible way a measure of what Landor meant to him.

An equal progress may be gauged by contrasting his later with his early treatment of other aspects of love; and by noting his developed power to give significant expression to sentiments of love which are, like the early passion of Landor's description, so often infantinely inarticulate.

The classic example of his mature conception is, of course, his version of the greatest of love stories, *Tristram of Lyonesse*. The theme came straight to his hands, with most of its perfections on it, from Thomas, Beroul, and the compiler of the romance of Tristram—and he has retold it with great faithfulness, neglecting no important incident of the original; except

CHAPTER XI. In so far as he has minimised the importance of the love potion and enlarged upon the forces of love and fate as sponsors of this sublime tragedy. Even this is in a measure prepared for by the early versions of the story—especially by Beroul's, where the efficacy of the love drink is limited to six years—for in these there come moments of reflection when the lovers, separately, suddenly find themselves unswayed by the currents that enthral and divinise them. Yet their meditations under these circumstances are generally personal : Swinburne makes them cosmic. He gives to his Tristram and Iseult in their " life of tears and fire " the rapture and grief of the sea for sympathy ; he makes their melancholy and their glory germane to the stars. Withal he does not forget the main springs of physical passion ; this is no puritan tragedy. The poet of *Poems and Ballads* would have had a strange development if it were. The passionnal and physical aspects of love are emphasised—with all his power of allusion and interpretation. Old themes reappear : the lovers are oppressed by the same eternal burden given such vivid expression in the first volume—the brevity of things too sweet ; their love song is an " Aubade " of the Provençal order ; Iseult, like the knight of " *Laus Veneris* " and his similars (in Morris or Browning), is " perfect in her transgression " : the heaven she discards is the Albigensis heaven that Rosamond despises ; the universal law of which complaint is made is the same that tortures *Atalanta in Calydon* ; with this difference—there is now no frenzy. Things sad are matched with things

glad, and apparent inequipoise is viewed with a new calm, sprung from the will to esteem highly the things that are glad. Love is as bitter as it ever was; the lament upon love more moving, because constrained, an appeal after long service :

And now, O Love, what comfort ?

But the joy of love is matched against its grief—Love's reward follows upon this invocation, and close upon Iseult's vigil come the splendid days at Joyous Gard :

And their great love was mixed with all things great
As life being lovely, and yet being strong like fate.

Dramatically as well as philosophically Swinburne then approves the creed the “ high song taught ”; and with Landor's praise of love leaves his own as an equal accompaniment :

Love, that is first and last of all things made,
The light that has the living world for shade,

Love that keeps all the choir of lives in chime;
Love that is blood within the veins of time.

There is yet one other aspect of this subject, which it were as unhappy to forget as it is happy to remember. It proves Swinburne to be among those his own enviable phrase describes as our lordliest lovers of love. Furthermore, it again exhibits his tender sympathy with the master who taught him of it : “ There is a silence in (deep love) which suspends the foot, and the folded arms and the dejected head are the images it reflects.” This is the voice he gives to love inarticulate. Eros and Pandemia and Urania

CHAPTER XI. had spoken through him : love oppressed and hopeless, frenzied, heroic, tender ; and according to the perfection of his utterance had left him gloriously crowned as the poet of love. It is even a higher glory that comes to him in this last office. No words of praise are needed for the poem (dedicated to his sister, Alice Swinburne, and prefaced to his great tragedy *Loctrine*) in which he performs it, so perfectly does it guard and yet reveal the perfection that is its theme. He is one with Landor's muses in approaching it—and they go “ with a tardy and a timid step, and with a low and tremulous ” song :

I

The love that comes and goes like wind or fire
 Hath words and wings wherewith to speak and flee.
 But love more deep than passion's deep desire,
 Clear and inviolable as the unsounded sea,
 What wings of words may serve to set it free,
 To lift and lead it homeward ? *Time and death*
Are less than love : or man's live Spirit saith
 False, when he deems his life is more than breath.

II

No words may utter love ; no sovereign song
 Speak all it would for love's sake. Yet would I
 Fain cast in moulded rhymes that do me wrong
 Some little part of all my love. . . .

III

Love needs not song nor speech to say what love
 Would speak or sing, were speech and song not weak
 To bear the sense-belated soul above,
 And bid the lips of silence breathe and speak.
 Nor power nor will has love to find or seek
 Words indiscovurable, ampler strains of song

DE AMORE

Than ever hailed him fair or showed him strong :
And less than these should do him worse than wrong.

CHAPTER
XI.

v

But if the gracious witness borne of words
Take not from speechless love the secret grace
That binds it round with silence, and engirds
Its heart with memories fair as heaven's own face,
Let love take courage for a little space
To speak and be rebuked not of the soul,
Whose utterance, ere the unwitting speech be whole,
Rebukes itself, and craves again control.

CHAPTER XII

EPILOGUE

CHAPTER XII. WE have now followed the development of Swinburne's genius from its earliest to its latest period, and have noted the circumstances in this development that show "Thalassius" to be true autobiography. This poem describes a relationship between Landor and Swinburne, involving a spiritual fatherhood on the one side and a spiritual sonship on the other. And we have seen that because of similarities in temper, in circumstances of birth and social tradition and training, in instinct of devotion to liberty and to art, both were qualified to enter into and to sustain this relationship in the intimate and yet liberal way which made subserviency of the younger to the older impossible, and real difference between them equally so. Swinburne says that Landor taught him to love liberty and to hate tyranny, and we have seen that his first published work, *The Queen Mother*, witnesses of this love and this hate. He records that as a youth, fresh from the instruction of his spirit's father, Love met him, and led him through wild mad days. And we have seen how in almost the earliest of his poems and ballads the mood is already acrid, and the song already

sad ; demonstrably not in fulfilment of Landor's precept or example, but governed now by one, now by another literary influence alien to him, distinct from his almost Greek clarity and confidence. Here, too, it was seen that the brightest and highest songs were close in spirit to Landor and in time to the "pilgrimage" Swinburne made to him : that, indeed, Landor was leading toward a higher poetic mood.

After *Poems and Ballads* the aftermath, as it were, of the erotic mood shrouds *Atalanta* in gloom. But there is a faith even there that is greater than the prevalent despair : and this is the faith in noble manhood—the sort of manhood exemplified by Landor ; and faith in the strength of song to overthrow tyranny—such a "sword of song" as Landor had wielded throughout his life.

The logical outcome of this faith is the "Ode on the Insurrection in Candia" which follows soon after *Atalanta* ; and "A Song of Italy." The first of these poems brought Swinburne into relationship with Mazzini. From him a great and noble influence descended upon Swinburne, and it was nobly responded to. But the old ingrained individualism, the old simple love of liberty and hatred of oppression was not to be subdued to the requirements of this new influence ; and the Singer before Sunrise, who, as a Mazzinian should have chanted of collectivism and duty, sang, not seldom and not weakly, of proud independence and knight-errantry scornful of mean men. Here, too, he was one with Landor. Perhaps, had he been able to receive Mazzini's

doctrine in its fulness, to understand some of the subtleties of political and social organisation at which it hinted, *Songs before Sunrise* would be even greater than it is. He was not able to receive always, or always to understand, these matters, and so the idea of freedom in these poems receives a confident trust commensurate rather with eighteenth- than with nineteenth-century practice. Even so the collection is noble and imperishably great, a trumpet call for the one fundamental liberty, which is political; and a witness of the dual nature of all great art—high moral passion and perfect love of beauty.

Songs before Sunrise marks the height of Swinburne's first great productive period, and Landor, having accompanied him thus far, goes with him yet further: first to the triumphant celebration of Athens which is the theme of *Erechtheus* (1876), obviously one in sympathy with that passionate eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Hellenism of which Landor was the leader. Here not only love of Greece but love of life also gives proof of a moral advance in the poet who, but a few years before, had almost hopelessly bewailed in *Atalanta in Calydon* the oppressions of heaven and the sorrows of earth. The theme of *Erechtheus* is taken up again in two later poems, "Athens: An Ode" (1881) and "For Greece and Crete" (1897), the latter poem showing by its date how enduring a trait in Swinburne's character was his love for Greece, and how persistently he followed the command and example to love and serve liberty.

The relationship with Landor shown in these

poems is important, but it is even more intimate in the poems on the sea. In these the attitude toward nature, the significant and unique love of the sea itself, find support in Landor's philosophy, "We are what Suns and Winds and Water make us," and find a moralising force and urge toward positive faith in the memory of Landor himself. Wide as sea horizons may be, and comforting to the poet who so often pictures himself as brooding over them, when the love of Landor, as light, comes upon them, they widen immeasurably, give back into infinite reaches; and between this light and infinity comes to Swinburne belief in immortality, and a vision of the soul.

Swinburne's poems on love also respond (as does every class of his poetry) to his hero-worship. His conception of Love grew to include those elements forgotten in *Poems and Ballads*, by operation of which Love is (in the words of Landor's Aspasia) "the framer, the preserver of the world, the pure Intelligence." They are dramas of the manifold moods of love that Landor's explanation of them, comprehensive and tender, reveals as so absolutely lovely. They are the consummation of his development; adorning his entire mature period, to the end; and to remember them is but to concur in the transference to himself made in the beginning of this essay of his own tribute to Landor—"his tender and ardent love for children, of animals and of flowers, make fragrant alike the pages of his writings and the records of his life,"—and in the addition to this of praise for yet one other circum-

CHAPTER XII. stance of singular felicity—that with these poems are others, even nobler, in which he pays tribute to his heroes, and most to his supreme hero, who in the beginning had helped to establish a boy-worshipper's spontaneous delight in praising famous men and “our fathers that were before us.”

APPENDICES

DEALING WITH THE DATING PROBLEM IN *Poems and Ballads* AND
WITH SOME EXTERNAL INCIDENTS THAT HELP TO SOLVE IT;
AND SHOWING TRACES IN SWINBURNE'S EARLY WORK OF
HIS AFFECTION FOR BAUDELAIRE, ARNOLD, MEREDITH, AND
HUGO.

	PAGE
APPENDIX I.—Showing the importance of the problem, and establishing the dates of "Laus Veneris," "Aholibah," and "The Masque of Queen Bersabe"	248
APPENDIX II.—Showing the probable date of "Anactoria" considering its relationship with certain poems of erotic love of early date	251
APPENDIX III.—Showing the relationship of "Anactoria" with <i>Atalanta in Calydon</i> ; and concluding that it is of middle date, 1863	257
APPENDIX IV.—Showing that "A Ballad of Burdens," "A Lamentation," "To Victor Hugo," "Ilicet" and its corollary "The Garden of Proserpine," and "Féline" relate to <i>Atalanta in Calydon</i> ; and that by its relationship with this drama "Anactoria" enters into this family of poems	260
APPENDIX V.—Showing that "Anactoria" relates to "Satia Te Sanguine" and to "The Triumph of Time"	266
APPENDIX VI.—Showing that the explanation Swinburne gives of "Anactoria," and the development of the moods of that poem from violent love to violent blasphemy and thence to regained pride of life, is also the explanation of the development of the moods of <i>Poems and Ballads</i> .	

242 SWINBURNE AND LANDOR

	PAGE
Chronology of <i>Poems and Ballads</i> as estimated in accordance with this principle, in connection with inter-relationships estimated in earlier Appendices, and with the known dates	268
APPENDIX VII. —Swinburne and Baudelaire	274
APPENDIX VIII. —Matthew Arnold and Swinburne	278
APPENDIX IX. —George Meredith's <i>Modern Love</i> and Swinburne	281
APPENDIX X. —Notes on Hugo's influence in this early period of Swinburne's work	284

APPENDIX I

So much of the quarrel over Swinburne's early poems was the result of a misconception as to their order of composition, and of mistaken deductions therefrom as to the poet's unsatisfactory development, that it may be worth while to record what is actually known of their chronology, and what of it is surmisable from their inter-relationship. *Poems and Ballads* (First Series) was published in 1866 ; but the "Dedication" (the last poem in the collection) is dated 1865, and in it the poet speaks of the poems as fruits of his growing, leaves of his unfolding :

Some scattered *in seven years' traces*,
As they fell from the boy that was then ;
Long left among idle green places,
Or gathered but now among men.

Seven years, counting back from 1865, would define the period of composition as from 1859 to 1865. And lest any one should suppose that "seven" is mere ballad convention, it must be noticed that the "Dedication" definitely places the *terminus a quo* in the days of tutelage (the last of which was in 1859) :

Some sang to me dreaming in class-time,
And truant in hand as in tongue ;
For the youngest were born of boy's pastime,
The eldest are young.

Tunes touched from a harp with man's fingers,
Or blown with boy's mouth in a reed.

Swinburne, it is true, later said that he had destroyed every scrap of his college MS. Well and good : he probably did—but this is not equivalent to saying that he

APPENDIX did not remember and perhaps rewrite and publish some of the poems so destroyed.

I. In addition to this general statement, certain indisputable facts are forthcoming to establish the opening of the period of these poems at an early date. Eight poems of the series had appeared previous to their publication in 1866 : "The Bloody Son" (under title of "The Fratricide") in *Once a Week*, February 15, 1862 ; "A Song in Time of Order," "A Song in Time of Revolution," "Before Parting," "After Death," "Faustine" (one of the poems found offensive by the 1866 critics) "The Sundew," and "August," in the *Spectator*, April to September 1862.

Furthermore the poem "Hermaphroditus" is dated March 1863. And to this date, or at least within a year or so of it, may be assigned a somewhat similar poem, "Fragoletta"; some sanction for this being derived from the "Notes of the Designs of the Old Masters in Florence" (*Essays and Studies*, p. 346), which, published in 1868, records impressions and experiences of 1864 : "Next, three heads together; the first may be boy's or girl's, having in it the delicious doubt of ungrown beauty, pausing at the point where the ways of loveliness divide; we may give it the typical strawberry flower (*Fragoletta*) and leave it to the Loves."

The poem "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" was certainly written in 1864, the year of Landor's death, and of the visit to Italy—"As once this year," st. 4). "Itylus" belongs to nearly the same season, having been written in a garden in Fiesole, "with the whole air vociferous with nightingales," as Swinburne described it to Mr. Gosse (*Fortnightly Review*, xci. p. 1019).

Poems dated by recollection of contemporaries include the "Hymn to Proserpine," which William Bell Scott (a gentleman whom Swinburne very much honoured —see the Ode—but once chastised for his "anecdote") places prior to 1862; and "Laus Veneris," which he places in that year.

APPENDIX I

Of poems to be dated approximately by reference to other poems of known date, one preparatory word may be said. There is often observable correspondence between poems of known date. For instance, the idea underlying "Faustine" (1862) is that of the continuance, through many bodies, of a spirit doomed from the first to evil and no good. Rosamond (of 1860) expresses something of a corollary thought when she identifies herself, as one in the continuity of love, with Helen, Cressida, and Guenevere. Passages from "After Death" (1862) echo or parallel others from "Laus Veneris" (1862 ?); see below. Compare also "A Song in Time of Revolution" (1862) st. 5-8 (on this same theme, the abasement of the evil and voluptuous great) with "Laus Veneris" or "The Queen Mother"; see below. Note the connection between "A Song in Time of Order" and "A Song in Time of Revolution" (both of 1862). Compare the artist's vision in "Before Parting" (1862), "I know each shadow of your lips by rote," with

You have the eyes men choose to paint, you know,
And just that soft turn in your little throat, etc.
(*Queen Mother*, ii.)

It may therefore be allowable to suppose that poems allied in subject and treatment (other evidence for dating being favourable or wanting) are of the same general time of composition—the aim being to arrange the *Poems and Ballads* in rough chronological order.

"LAUS VENERIS"

Certain of the poems connect themselves with the two dramas published in 1860 : "Laus Veneris," "Aholibah," "The Masque of Queen Bersabe."

Of these "Laus Veneris," hardest hit by the 1866 reviewers, must have been written between 1860 and 1862. The stanza (and partly the philosophy: cf. stanzas 18 and 19 with the *Rubáiyát*, xlvi and lviii) is from the *Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*, given to

APPENDIX fame after 1860 when Rossetti discovered the little book I. (unnoticed at its publication in 1859), only that Swinburne pairs his stanzas by rhyming the third lines of the members of each pair. "Laus Veneris," according to one tale, was written out very rapidly—thirteen stanzas in one hour—almost as soon as FitzGerald's poem had been read. W. B. Scott (*Autobiographical Notes*, ii. 69) is authority for the later date, 1862. Towards Christmas of that year, bound for a vacation at Tynemouth, his party was suddenly joined by Swinburne, who had posted to Morpeth from Wallingford early that morning. Why so early he could not explain: it seemed a secret. Nevertheless, by the much-resounding sea something evolved: to wit, "Laus Veneris" and the "Hymn to Proserpine," the sea full of sympathy meanwhile, "its breaking waves running the whole length of the long level sands toward Cullercoats, and sounding like far-off acclamation." In all probability the poems were but newly composed (note stanza 22, the beautiful allusion to the advent of "Christ's Birthnight").

Compare the idea of unforgivable sin in "Laus Veneris" with a similar idea in *The Queen Mother*; also the picture of hell; and the Pre-Raphaelite contrast of fighting to love.

The Queen Mother, 1860

Unforgivable Sin

Den.—A grave thing is it to feel
sure of hell,
But who should fear it if I slip
the chance,
And make some holy blunder in
my end,
Translating sin by penitence?
For none

Sinned ever yet my way; treason
and lust,
Sick apes, red murder, a familiar
fool,
To this new trick set by them,
will be shamed
In me for ever.

Laus Veneris

Me, most forsaken of all souls
that fell;
Me satiated with things in-
satiable;
Me, for whose sake the extreme
hell makes mirth,
Yea, laughter kindles at the heart
of hell.

(St. 36.)
Yea, with red sin the faces of
them shine;
But in all these there was no
sin like mine; etc.

(St. 52.)

(iv. 2, p. 114.)

The Albigeois Hell as in "Aucassin and Nicolette"

All fair lords and knights, Into sad hell where all sweet love
 Great kings with gold work hath end.
 wrought into their hair,
 Strong men of price and such as There are the naked faces of great
 play or sing, kings,
 Delicate ladies with well-shodden The singing folk with all their
 feet, lute-playings ;
 Tall queens in silk wear and all There sit the knights that were
 royal things . . . so great of hand,
 All shall God set awork. . . . The ladies that were queens of
 We shall lie down and curse. . . . fair green land.
 (iv. 2, p. 112.) (St. 46 and 47.)

Pre-Raphaelite (Morris) contrast of War to Love

I would have paid gold coin to The clean great time of goodly
 turn a man, fight, etc. (St. 53.)
 And get me bone to handle the The fair pure sword smites out in
 good steel. subtle ways, etc. (St. 54.)
 (i. 3, p. 22.) Rows of beautiful mailed men, etc.
 (St. 55.)

The idea occurs also in *Chastelard* and *Atalanta*, however. But it does so inevitably, for the Pre-Raphaelites, with whom Swinburne was at this early time associated, were nourished on the "Morte d'Arthur" and on *Froissart*, where the chief alternative to love is the practice or actuality of fighting. In *Atalanta* there is praise of

The brilliance of battle, the bloom and the beauty, the splendour of spears.

In *Chastelard*, Mary, like Catherine, longs to know that clean ardour :

 . . . twice I laughed—
 I tell you, twice my heart swelled out with thirst
 To be into the battle. (ii. 1.)

Other ideas in *Chastelard* which repeat those of "Laus Veneris" include the whole idea of the drama. The knight of Mount Horsel is merely the type of which *Chastelard* is the individual. In him surges the bitter-

~~Present~~ sweet madness of love which rose first in the hot chamber
 I. of Venus Panemia :

I know her ways of loving, all of them ;
 A sweet soft way the first is ; afterward
 It burns and bites like fire ; the end of that,
 Charred dust and eyelids bitten through with smoke.

(i. 1.)

Actual description of Mary as Venus ("A Venus crowned that eats the hearts of men") and many other details enforce the idea of the connection of the drama *Chastelard* with "Laus Veneris."

So far then, in "Laus Veneris," we have a poem that derives from *The Queen Mother and Rosamond*, and contributes much to *Chastelard*, and a very little to *Atalanta*. Of these last two Swinburne writes that the order of the publication of his works was not that of their composition. *Atalanta* (published 1865) was begun on the very day when he gave the final touches to *Chastelard*. He also writes (in the Dedicatory Epistle to his collected poems) that *Chastelard* was "conceived and partly written by a youngster not yet emancipated from servitude to college rule." Hence, from its alliance with two dramas of early date, we may place the terminus a quo for "Laus Veneris" in 1860 (after the "Rubáiyát" had become known to Swinburne). At the very latest, it was composed before the end of 1862.

"AHOLIBAH" AND "THE MASQUE OF BERSABE"

Much the same result as that obtained for "Laus Veneris" is also to be obtained from a study of the alliances of "Aholibah" and "The Masque of Queen Bersabe" (in which Aholibah, with Sappho, is one of the queens). "The Masque" has some slight connection with "Rosamond," where mention is made of

... how the golden king that made God songs
 Chid at their ways and called them this and that :
 And he loved many queens with just such hair
 And such good eyes. . . .

APPENDIX I

24

It also has some connection with a Morality, *The APPENDIX Pilgrim of Pleasure*, written by Swinburne for the tale by Miss Gordon (Mrs. Disney Leith), *The Children of the Chapel* (1864), only that parts at least of this Morality, the Interlude of Youth for instance, seem quieter and maturer than the poems treated in this section. *The general alliance of the "Masque" tends to place it then between the dates 1860 and 1864, or around these dates; preferably near the earlier, for other alliances point to that date.* Compare it with "After Death" (1862) and "Laus Veneris" (1862?).

After Death (1862).

I had fair coins, red and white,
And my name was as great light.

I had fair clothes, green and red,
And strong gold bound round my head.

My live thews were of great strength,
Now am I waxen a span's length.

My live sides were full of lust,
Now are they dried with dust.

Masque of Queen Bersabe.

I am the Queen of Amorites.
My face was like a place of lights,
With multitudes at festival.
(Azubah.)

I am the Queen of Scythians.
My strength was like no strength of man's.
(Thomyris.)

There sit the knights that were so great of hand,
The ladies that were queens of fair green land,
Grown grey and black now, brought unto the dust,
Soiled, without raiment, clad about with sand.
(*Laus Veneris*, 47.)

Aholibah.

(Of Aholibah in *Masque*.)
Thy garments upon thee were fair,
With scarlet and with yellow thread,
Also the weaving of thine hair
Was as fine gold upon thy head,
And thy silk shoes were sewn with red, etc.
(St. 9.)

Therefore the wrath of God shall be
Set as a watch upon her way;
And whoso findeth by the sea,
Blown dust of bones will hardly say
If this were that Aholibah.
(Last stanza.)

"Aholibah," it must be added, is one of the by-products or preparations for *Chastelard*; for Mary Stuart is described by Knox-taught citizens as Aholibah:

This is she,

Yea, the lewd woman, yea the same woman
That gat bruised breasts in Egypt, when strange men,
Swart with great suns, foot-burnt with angry soils,
And strewn with sand of gaunt Chaldean miles,
Poured all their love upon her.

(Act V. 1.)

Aholah also receives mention from them, which is perhaps

APPENDIX reminiscent of the poem "Aholah" (and of Ezekiel xxiii. 1 from which that derives) and of the "Masque of Queen Bersabe," though a likely interpretation of the relation is that these poems were composed during the progress of *Chastelard* from its inception at college to its culmination, perhaps as late as 1868.

APPENDIX II

Showing that in all probability "Anactoria" is also of early date (1863?).

IN addition to the poems already dated ("Laus Veneris," APPENDIX 1862?; "Faustine," 1862; "Hymn to Proserpine," 1862 or before) there are certain others found equally objectionable by the critics who took them to be the product of Swinburne's maturity—"Anactoria," "Les Noyades," "Dolores," "In the Orchard," etc. (the last to all intents and purposes an extension of a passage in Marlowe's *Hero and Leander*). Of these "Anactoria" is at once the most important and the most distressing. In the *Notes on Poems and Reviews* Swinburne explains what he meant by it, or perhaps what he would have it mean from the mature vantage of these *Notes* as distinct from the mood of the much earlier date of composition. "In this poem I have simply expressed, or tried to express, that violence of affection between one and another which hardens into rage and deepens into despair. . . . The keynote which I have here touched was struck long since by Sappho. . . . I have not said, as Boileau and Philips have, that the speaker sweats and swoons at the sight of her favourite by the side of a man. I have abstained from touching on such details, for this reason: that I felt myself incompetent to give adequate expression in English to the literal and absolute words of Sappho; and would not debase and degrade them into a viler form. . . . I abandoned the idea of translation. . . . I tried then to write some paraphrase of the fragments which the Fates and the Christians have spared us. . . . I have striven to cast my spirit into the mould of hers, to express and represent not the poem

APPENDIX but the poet. . . . Here and there, I need not say, I have rendered into English the very words of Sappho. I have tried also to work into words of my own some expression of their effect: to bear witness how, more than any other's, her verses strike and sting the memory in lonely places, or at sea, among all loftier sights and sounds—how they seem akin to fire and air, being themselves “all air and fire”; other element there is none in them. As to the angry appeal against the supreme mystery of oppressive heaven, which I have ventured to put into her mouth at that point only where pleasure culminates in pain, affection in anger, and desire in despair—they are to be taken as the first outcome or outburst of foiled and fruitless passion recoiling on itself. After this, the spirit finds time to breathe and repose above all vexed senses of the weary body, all bitter labours of the revolted soul; the poet's pride of place is resumed, the lofty conscience of invincible immortality in the memories and the mouths of men.”

Without wishing in any way to impair the beauty of this description, something may be said as to its relationship with the poem it describes. “Anactoria” has much beauty, especially toward the close, when the poetess is represented as content and proud in the thought of her sea-change and immortality; but it is over violent, not only in its angry protest against the supreme mystery of oppressive heaven, but also in its much more than over emphasis of the keynote supposedly struck by Sappho. A certain orderliness and restraint in the description does, then, something less than justice to the poem. It depreciates the sensuousness, describing what worse might have been done; and determines an artistic reason for the assault on deity. It does the only sort of thing a poet averse to recantation could do when forced by circumstances to explain an ill-considered poem after a lapse of maturing years. At least, that is my estimate, leading to the conclusion that “Anactoria” belongs to an early date, say 1863. The reasons follow.

Swinburne's affection for Sappho may be allowed to be the natural flower of his genius and education : he says as much. But the singularly beautiful " combination " from Sappho by Rossetti (" Like the sweet apple which reddens upon the topmost bough," etc.) and Rossetti's most happy use of Dante's own expressions in the poem " Dante at Verona " may have stimulated him to the sort of dramatic presentation of her that he chose to give. Landor also may have supplemented this. One little extension of a Sapphic fragment (" Mother, I cannot mind my wheel ") from his *Simonidea* receives (in 1891) the happiest praise at Swinburne's hands : " Low as is the key of these tenderer verses in comparison with the fiery and faultless music, the subtle and simple intensity of the four transcendent lines which suggested them, it seems to me that Sappho's very self might have smiled approval or at least condonation of their gentler loveliness and less passionate melody than her own." Swinburne must also at some time have known what Landor had to say on the " Ode to Anactoria." But if we are to take his attestations of reverence for Landor at anything like their face value, it is easier to suppose either that this reverence had not fully matured or that he did not know Landor's comment at the time when " Anactoria " was written, than to suppose that, knowing or revering, he disregarded it. Landor's criticism appears in his greatest prose work, *Pericles and Aspasia*. Cleone (who very often expresses Landor's own point of view) has just been commenting on Sappho's reply to Alcaeus that it showed her " deficient in delicacy and in tenderness. Could Sappho be ignorant how infantinely inarticulate is early love ? " And she goes on : " The best Ode of Sappho, the ' Ode to Anactoria,' ' Happy as any God is he, etc.,' shows the intemperance and disorder of passion. The description of her malady may be quite correct, but I confess my pleasure ends at the first strophe, where it begins with the generality of readers. I do not

APPENDIX desire to know the effects of the distemper on her body, II. and I run out of the house into the open air, although the symptoms have less in them of contagion than of unseemliness. Both Sophocles and Euripides excite our sympathies more powerfully and more poetically." Swinburne, I think, is not likely to have known this (at least in his capacity as hero-worshipper), and disregarded it even so much as he has in "*Anactoria*." And on this account I wish to assign the composition of the poem at the very latest to 1863, for from that time on his knowledge of Landor's work (if it was confined to the poetry during his Oxford years) must certainly have extended to the complete work, since his devotion took him to do reverence to Landor in Florence in 1864.

But the real reason for assigning "*Anactoria*" to this middle date is more important. It rests in the composite character of the poem : half, harsh amorousness, related to moods in *Rosamond* and *The Queen Mother* (1860) ; half, angry protest against deity, related to the choruses of *Atalanta* (1865).

<i>Anactoria</i>	<i>"Rosamond" and other early poems</i>
My life is bitter with thy love ; thine eyes	God help ! your hair burns me to see like gold
Blind me, thy tresses burn me, thy sharp sighs	Burnt to pure heat ; your colour 1860. seen turns in me
Divide my flesh and spirit with soft sound.	To pain and plague upon the temple-vein
(1-3.)	That aches. . . . (<i>Ros.</i> p. 205. Cf. 179, 186, etc.)
Ah, ah, thy beauty ! like a beast- it bites,	Alas thy beauty ! for thy mouth's sweet sake,
Stings like an adder, like an arrow smites.	My soul is bitter in me, my limbs 1862 ? quake. . . . (<i>Laus Veneris</i> , st. 37.)
I would the sea had hidden us, the fire	The intolerable infinite desire Made my face pale like faded fire, When the ashen pyre falls through with heat. (Sappho.) 1862-8. (<i>Masque of Queen Bersabe.</i>)
Severed the bones that bleach, the flesh that cleaves,	
And let our sifted ashes drop like leaves.	(7, 9, 10.)

(Sappho's own words, of course, underlie both of APPENDIX II.
these: ". . . and straightway a subtle fire has run under my skin . . . : I am paler than grass."—WHARTON.)

*Anactoria**"Rosamond" and other early poems* 1862?

I feel thy blood against my blood :
my pain
Pains thee, and lips bruise lips,
and vein stings vein.
Let fruit be crushed on fruit, let
flower on flower.

(11, 12, 13.)

Ah, that my lips were tuneless
lips, but pressed
To the scourged blossom of thy
scoured white breast !

(105, 106.)

I would find grievous ways to have
thee slain,
Vex thee with amorous agonies,
and shake
Life at thy lips, and leave it there
to ache. (27-30.)

I would earth had thy body as
fruit to eat,
And no mouth but some serpent's
found thee sweet. (25, 26.)

Nay, sweet, for is she God alone ?
hath she
Made earth and all the centuries
of the sea,
Taught the sun ways to travel,
woven most fine
The moon-beams, shed the star-
beams forth as wine.

(89-92.)

(As one approaches *Atalanta*,
mention of this sort changes in
colour; sadness for joy; com-
mination for thanksgiving. Early
work is more single. "Anactoria"
touches the early here; embraces
the harsh period further on.)

There is a feverish famine in my
veins ;
Below her bosom, where a crushed
grape stains
The white and blue, there my lips
caught and clove.
(*Laus Veneris*, st. 43.)

If thou must slay me, be not over
quick.
Kill me with some slow heavy kiss
that plucks
The heart out at the lips. . . . 1863?
(*Chastelard*, i. 3.)

Ah yet would God that stems and
roots were bred
Out of my weary body and my
head. (*Laus Veneris*, st. 15.)

The sun thou madest of good gold,
Of clean silver the moon cold,
Wind and water thou hast in hold, 1862-3?
Both the land and the long sea ;
Both the green sea and the land,
Lord God, thou hast in hand.
(*Masque of Bersabe*.)

(King David's concluding speech,
ll. 9, 10, 14-17.)

Stray breaths of Sapphic song
that blew
Through Mitylene,
Shook the fierce quivering blood
in you
By night, Faustine. (St. 30.)

APPENDIX	Thy shoulders whiter than a fleece	Back to the shoulder with its fleece	186
II.	of white,	Of locks, Faustine.	
		(<i>Faustine</i> , st. 1.)	
	And flower-sweet fingers, good to bruise or bite	Bruise my side blue and work the stamp therein,	186
	As honeycomb of the inmost honey cells,	Deep as blood hides i' the flesh. I love pain well to feel ;	
	· · · · ·	As to wring in one's fingers—the least pain,	
	And blood like purple blossom at the tips.	It kills the hard impatience of the soul.	
		(<i>Rosamond</i> .)	

APPENDIX III

The last section has shown the relationship existing APPENDIX III.
between "Anactoria" and poems of 1860 to 1862 or 1863 (?). It now remains to show that "Anactoria" is also related to *Atalanta* (published 1865) and doubtless composed in part at least in 1864: see for example Text, pp. 116-17, where the similarity of passages in *Atalanta* to others in "In Memory of Landor" and in "Hesperia" is shown).

In relating "Anactoria" to *Atalanta*, relationship is also established for it with "Félide," "A Ballad of Burdens," "A Lamentation," etc., which (see Appendix IV.) are temperamentally one with sections of the Greek play. Chiefly, "Anactoria" and *Atalanta* are at one in their violent abuse of "God"; in this they quite outdo all other poems of this first period.

Anactoria

... but were I made as he
Who hath made all things to
break them one by one,
If my feet trod upon the stars
and sun,
And souls of men as his have
alway trod,
God knows I might be crueler
than God. (148-152.)

Atalanta in Calydon

The lord of love and loathing
and of strife,
Who gives a star and takes a sun
away;
Who shapes the soul, and makes
her a barren wife
To the earthly body and grievous
growth of clay; etc. (1140-47.)

For who shall change with prayers
or thanksgivings
The mystery of the cruelty of
things? (153-154.)

I marvel what men do with prayers
awake, etc. (183.)

Anactoria

Or say what God above all gods
and years
With offering and blood-sacrifice
of tears,
With lamentation from strange
lands, from graves
Where the snake pastures, from
scarred mouths of slaves,
From prison and from plunging
prows of ships . . . etc.
Feeds the mute melancholy lust
of heaven ? (155-170.)

Hath he not sent us hunger ? who
hath cursed
Spirit and flesh with longing ?
filled with thirst,
Their lips who cried unto him ?
who bade exceed
The fervid will, fall short the
feeble deed,
Bade sink the spirit and the flesh
aspire,
Pain animate the dust of dead
desire,
And life yield up her flower to
violent fate ? (175-181.)

Him would I reach, him smite,
him desecrate,
Pierce the cold lips of God with
human breath,
And mix his immortality with
death. (182-184.)

Atalanta in Calydon

Lo, where they heal, they help
not ; thus they do,
They mock us with a little pite-
ousness,
And we say prayers, and weep ;
but at the last,
Sparing awhile, they smite and
spare no whit. (156-160.)

Was there not evil enough,
Mother, and anguish on earth
Born with a man at his birth,
Wastes underfoot, and above
Storm out of heaven, and dearth
Shaken down from the shining
thereof,
Wrecks from afar over seas
And peril of shallow and firth,
And tears that spring and
increase
In the barren places of mirth. (786-795.)

Strength without hand to smite ;
Love that endures for a breath :
(2nd Cho.)
Who shapes the soul, and makes
her a barren wife
To the earthly body and grievous
growth of clay ;
Who turns the large limbs to a
little flame
And binds the great sea with a
little sand ;
Who makes desire, and slays desire
with shame, etc. (1142-44.)

I would the wine of time, made
sharp and sweet,
Were no more trodden of them
under feet, etc.

*Anactoria**Atalanta in Calydon*APPENDIX
III.

That life were given them as a
fruit to eat,
And death to drink as water, etc.
(1115-28.)

Summary for the two sections on “*Anactoria*,” considering its relationship to early erotic poems and its relationship to *Atalanta*, must therefore allow it to be of (*circa*) 1868.

APPENDIX IV

APPENDIX. Showing that with *Atalanta* (published 1865 ; composed IV. 1864) are connected :

“A Ballad of Burdens,”

“A Lamentation,”

“To Victor Hugo,”

“Ilicet” (which has for corollary or continuation “The Garden of Proserpine”),

“Féline” (which in stanzas 51-52 also links with the “Garden of Proserpine”),

and that these poems are, in all likelihood, of 1864, or (especially “To Victor Hugo”) of 1865.

Atalanta

(The high gods refuse the draught
of human existence.—Cf. Job
xxiv. 1.)

Lest all these change, and heaven
bow down to none,
Change and be subject to the
secular sway,
And terrene revolution of the sun.
(ii. 1109, 1111-13.)

But fortune and the fiery feet of
change. (2285.)

When I move among shadows a
shadow, and wail by impass-
able streams ?

(2081.)

For the dead man no home is. . . .
(2182.)

A Ballad of Burdens

The burden of four seasons. Rain
in spring, etc. (St. 7.)

The burden of dead faces. Out of
sight
And out of love, beyond the
reach of hands,
Changed in the changing of the
dark and light,
They walk and weep about the
barren lands, etc. (St. 8.)

Atalanta

Since extreme love and sorrowing
overmuch
Vex the great gods, and over-
loving men
Slay and are slain for love's
sake ; . . . (2243-45.)

. . . I reel
As one made drunk with living,
whence he draws
Drunken delight ; yet I, though
mad for joy,
Loathe my long living. . . .
(1915-18.)

A Ballad of Burdens

The burden of much gladness. IV.

Life and lust
Forsake thee, and the face of
thy delight, etc.
(St. 9.)

The burden of long living. Thou
shalt fear
Waking, and sleeping mourn
upon thy bed ;
And say at night, "Would God
the day were here."
And say at dawn, "Would God
the day were dead."
(St. 4.)

(Cf. *A Litany*)

Thou shalt neither rise up by
day
Nor lie down by night ;
Would God it were dark ! thou
shalt say ;
Would God it were light !
(St. 12.)

A Lamentation

Who hath known the ways of
time
Or trodden behind his feet ?
There is no such man among
men.
For chance overcomes him, or
crime
Changes ; . . .
(Strophe i. st. 1, 1-4.)

Althaea. They are strong, they are
strong ; I am broken, and
these prevail. . . . (1508.)

Mess. These made of heaven in-
fatuate in their deaths,
Foolish ; for these would baffle
fate, and fell.
(1554-55.)

Cho. Alas, that time is stronger
than strong men,
Fate than all gods ;
(1791-92.)

For now we know not of them ;
but one saith
The gods are gracious, praising
God ; and one,
When hast thou seen ? or hast
thou felt his breath
Touch, nor consume thine eye-
lids as the sun,

Who hath known the ways and
the wrath,
The sleepless spirit, the root
And blossom of evil will,
The divine device of a god ?
(Str. i. st. 2, 1-4.)

APPENDIX

Atalanta

IV. Nor fill thee to the lips with fiery
death ?

None hath beheld him, none.

The lord of love and loathing and
of strife.

(1180-35 ; 1140.)

Sparing awhile, they smite and
spare no whit.

(160.)

Smites without sword, and
scourges without rod.

(1150.)

Semi-Cho. Thou art smitten, her
lord, her desire,
Thy dear blood wasted as rain.
(2017-18.)

(And the whole conception of
Meleager's manner of death.)

Clashing of streams in the sea,
Wave against wave as a sword,
Clamour of currents and foam;
Rains making ruin on earth,

Fruits growing faint in the tree,
And blind things dead in their
birth ; etc.

And I too as thou sayest have
seen great things ;
Seen elsewhere, but chiefly when
the sail
First caught between stretched
ropes the roaring west,
And all our oars smote eastward,
and the wind
First flung round faces of sea-
faring men
White splendid snowflakes of the
sundering foam, etc.

(Throughout the magnificent
verses in which Meleager rehearses
the wonders seen on the Argono-
nautic expedition.—588 *et seq.*)

A Lamentation

No hand has meted his path.

Man's fate is a blood-red fruit,
And the mighty gods have
their fill,

And relax not the rein or
the rod.

(Str. i. st. 2, 9-12.)

And melteth man to the bone.

As water he wear eth away,
As a flower, as an hour in a day,
Fallen from laughter to moan.

(Str. i. st. 3, 5-8.)

Who hath known the pain, the
old pain of earth,
Or all the travail of the sea,
The many ways and waves, the
birth

Fruitless, the labour nothing
worth ? etc.

(Str. ii. st. 2, 1-4.)

I have known the ways of the sea,
All the perilous ways ;
Strange winds have spoken with
me,
And the tongues of strange days.

As a greave is cleft with an arrow
At the joint of the knee,
I have cleft through the sea-
straits narrow
To the heart of the sea, etc.

(Str. ii. st. 2, 9-30.)

Atalanta

Fate, mother of desirer and fears,
Bore unto men the law of tears ;

She, without body, without name,
In days forgotten and foregone.

(1817-18, 1821-22.)

A Lamentation

APPENDIX
IV.

Or ever the stars were made, or
skies,

Grief was born, and the kinless
night,

Mother of gods without form
or name.

(Str. ii., st. 3, 1-4.)

To Victor Hugo

Because thou art cruel and men
are piteous, etc.

At least we witness of thee ere
we die,

That these things are not other-
wise, but thus. . . .

But ye, keep ye on earth
Your lips from over speech,

For silence after grievous things
is good . . .
And lordship of the soul.

But the gods love not justice more
than fate,
And smite the righteous and the
violent mouth.

For now we know not of them ;
but one saith
The gods are gracious, praising
God ; and one,
When hast thou seen ? etc.

The lord of love and loathing and
of strife,
Who gives a star and takes a sun
away ;

Who turns the large limbs to a
little flame,
And binds the great sea with a
little sand ;

We ask not nor await
From the clenched hand of fate,
As thou, remission of the world's
old wrong ;

Respite we ask not, nor release ;
Freedom a man may have, he
shall not peace.

(St. 7.)

The all-sought-for gate whence
God or Chance debars.

(St. 8, l. 3.)

But fate is dim, and all the gods
obscure.

(St. 14, l. 8.)

So the strong God, the chance
Central of circumstance,
Still shows him exile who will not
be slave.

(St. 19, ll. 1-3.)

Yea, he is strong, thou say'st,
A mystery many-faced,
The wild beasts know him and the
wild birds flee ;
The blind night sees him, death
Shrinks beaten at his breath,
And his right hand is heavy on the
sea ;
We know he hath made us, and
is king ;
We know not if he care for any-
thing.

(St. 20.)

APPENDIX

PENDIX
IV

Atalanta
Who makes desire, and slays
desire with shame. . . .

Atalanta

Zeus, who hath fear and custom
under foot,
[wills that each thing live its life],
Nor only live, but lighten and lift
up higher.

For not the difference of the several flesh,
Being vile or noble or beautiful or base,
Makes praiseworthy, but purer spirit and heart, etc.

Before the beginning of years
There came to the making of
man
Time, with a gift of tears ;
Grief, with a glass that ran, etc.

That laughs as Gods laugh at us !
Fate's are we.

But up in heaven the high gods
one by one,
Lay hands upon the draught
that quickeneth, . . .
And hold it to our lips and laugh ;
but they
Preserve their lips from tasting.

a lifelong weight
That no man's finger lighteneneth,
Nor any god can lighten fate.

To Victor Hugo
Bade light be and bade night be,
one by one ;
Bade hope and fear, bade ill
And good redeem and kill,
Till all men be aweary of the
sun. . . .

To Victor Hugo

Bade light be and bade night be,
one by one;
Bade hope and fear, bade ill
And good redeem and kill,
Till all men be awearie of the
sun. . . .

(St. 21.)

Yea, one thing more than this
We know that one thing is,
The splendour of a spirit without
blame,
That not the labouring years
Blind-born, nor any fears,
Nor men nor any gods can tire or
tame ;
But purer power with fiery
breath
Fills, and exalts above the gulfs of
death.

(St. 23.)

Hicet

A little sorrow, a little pleasure,
Fate metes us from the dusty
measure

That holds the date of all of us ;
We are born with travail and
strong crying,
And from the birth-day to the
dying

The likeness of our life is thus.
(St. 18.)

... the laughter
Of the old unalterable gods.
(St. 22, ll. 5-6.)

But up in heaven the high gods
one by one,
Lay hands upon the draught
that quickeneth, . . .
And hold it to our lips and laugh ;
but they
Preserve their lips from tasting.
a lifelong weight
That no man's finger lighteneth,
Nor any god can lighten fate.

Far up above the years and
nations,
The high gods, clothed and
crowned with patience,
Endure through days of death-
like date ;
They bear the witness of things
hidden ;
Before their eyes all life stands
hidden,
As they before the eyes of Fate.

(St. 23.)

Atalanta

See above, under *A Lamentation*
(They are strong, etc.)

Il letz

Not for their love shall Fate
retire,
Nor they relent for our desire, etc.
(St. 24, ll. 1-3.)

APPENDIX
IV.

Under *A Lamentation*
(For now we know not, etc.)
(Sparing awhile, they smite, etc.)

I marvel what men do with
prayers awake, etc.
(183.)

They mock us with a little
piteousness,
And we say prayers and weep ;
but at the last,
Sparing awhile, they smite, and
spare no whit.

(157-160.)

Félice
The gods, the gods are stronger ;
time
Falls down before them, all
men's knees
Bow, all men's prayers and sor-
rows climb
Like incense toward them : yea,
for these
Are gods, Féhse.

(St. 38.)

See below, Appendix VIII.,
"Arnold and Swinburne."

Can ye beat off one wave with
prayer ?
(St. 54, l. 1.)

Pray, till ye feel the exceeding
weight
Of God's intolerable scorn,
Not to be borne.
(St. 45, ll. 8-5.)

On account of these parallelisms, it seems therefore necessary to group all the poems mentioned in this section in the same general period. The chief poem in the series is *Atalanta* (1864-65 ? comp.) and the shorter poems lead up to it. "To Victor Hugo" has the appearance of leading beyond it.

APPENDIX V

APPENDIX V. "Anactoria" relates to two poems of love grown weary to the point of seeking relief in "violent delights" that have "violent ends"; "Satia Te Sanguine" and "The Triumph of Time" (which, see Appendix VI., sums up in itself all the love poems of quieter mood as though it were culmination of them). All three poems represent the madness of love.

Anactoria

I would the sea had hidden us,
the fire. . . .
(Wilt thou fear that, and fear
not my desire?)

Severed the bones that bleach,
the flesh that cleaves,
And let our sifted ashes drop like
leaves.

(7-10.)

The Triumph of Time

I wish we were dead together to-
day,
Lost sight of, hidden away out
of sight,
Clasped and clothed in the cloven
clay,
Out of the world's way, out of
the light, etc.

(St. 15.)

Satia Te Sanguine

I wish you were dead, my dear ;
I would give you, had I to give,
Some death too bitter to fear ;
It is better to die than live.

(St. 9.)

I would find grievous ways to
have thee slain,
Intense device, and superflux of
pain ; etc.

(28-80.)

I wish you were stricken of
thunder
And burnt with a bright flame
through,
Consumed and cloven in sunder,
I dead at your feet like you.

(St. 10.)

Anactoria

Cruel ? But love makes all that
 love him well
 As wise as heaven and crueler
 than hell.
 Me hath love made more bitter
 toward thee
 Than death toward man, etc.
 (145-148, etc.)

*Satia Te Sanguine*APPENDIX
V.

You are crueler, you that we love,
 Than hatred, hunger, or death ;
 You have eyes and breasts like a
 dove,
 And you kill men's hearts with
 a breath.

(St. 12.)

On account of this parallelism, it seems at least probable that these poems were written about the same time. I have given 1863 ? as the possible date of "Anactoria"; placing it as late as that chiefly because of its composite nature as already explained, and its leaning toward *Atalanta*. "Satia Te Sanguine" and "The Triumph of Time" may be a little earlier. But it is worth noting that this hypothetical dating on internal evidence only, has some support externally. For the idea of the cruelty of love so vehemently expressed in these three poems seems to have derived from Meredith's *Modern Love* (see Appendix IX.), which Swinburne defended against an objectionable review in 1862.

APPENDIX VI

APPENDIX VI. Showing that the stages of love, over-loving, bitterness of soul manifesting itself in violent words or will, peace, and reassumption of pride of place, which are the stages of "Anactoria," are also the stages of *Poems and Ballads* as a developing series.

IN Swinburne's explanation "Anactoria" has a close resemblance to "Dolores." Entirely different in external situation, their inner significance is one and the same (except that "Anactoria" is complete within itself; the poet resumes her pride of place, the spirit finds time to breathe and repose above all vexed senses of the weary body: "Dolores" finds its completion in the second and third members of its trilogy). "Anactoria" expresses a "violence of affection between one and another that hardens into rage and deepens into despair," and culminates in an angry protest against heaven. "Dolores" expressed violence of thwarted affection that maddens and culminates in the cherishing of "violent delights." The two poems must belong to nearly the same season (the completer "Anactoria" being probably later): both show sympathy with *Modern Love* (Appendix IX.); and "Dolores," in addition, receives something from Baudelaire (Appendix VII.), whose *Les Fleurs du Mal* Swinburne reviewed September 1862.

But before them both there comes a series of poems, describing the gradual hardening of love from something tender into something that requires "violent delights."

I have suggested "The Triumph of Time" as the latest APPENDIX VI. of those: the lover, foiled in love and weary of loving, is seeking out some dissolving and destroying sin . . . the sin, seemingly, that the Note on "Dolores" describes such a lover as having found.

The Triumph of Time

I wish we were dead together to-day. I wish you were dead, my dear, etc. (St. 15.)

I wish earth had your body as fruit to eat, etc. (Anactoria.)

I would find a sin to do ere I die, Sure to dissolve and destroy me all through, etc. There are sins it may be to discover, etc. (Dolores.) (St. 29.)

But he is reminiscent also of kinder if no less fervent aspects of love: aspects that might have been, that were once possible, now gone.

There will no man do for your sake, I think,
What I would have done for the least word said.
I had wrung life dry for your lips to drink,
Broken it up for your daily bread.

(St. 12, ll. 1-4.)

I have laid my life at thy feet;
Have thy will thereof, etc. (April.)

(A translation, but representative of an individual mood. See "An Oblation," *Songs before Sunrise.*)

Yea, hope at highest and all her fruit,
And time at fullest and all his dower,
I had given you surely, and life to boot,
Were we once made one for a single hour.

(St. 18, ll. 1-4.)

But you would have felt my soul in a kiss,
And known that once if I loved you well;
And I would have given my soul for this
To burn for ever in burning hell (Les Noyades, last stanza, 20.)

Yea, I know this well: were you once sealed mine,
Mine in the blood's beat, mine in the breath, etc. etc.

APPENDIX VI. Not all strong things had severed
us then ;
Not wrath of gods, nor wisdom of
men, etc.

(St. 17.)

(For similar expressions of will
to abide in love, in despite of God,
The Leper and *Laus Veneris* may
be referred to.)

(*Laus Veneris*, 5, etc., may be
compared also with the following,
and both with *The Triumph of
Time*.)

O Sin, thou knowest that all thy
shame in her
Was made a goodly thing ;
Yea, she caught Shame and
shamed him with her kiss,
etc.

(*A Ballad of Death*, st. 8, 6-10.)

These were a part of the playing
I heard
Once, ere my love and my heart
were at strife ;
Love that sings and hath wings
as a bird, etc.

(St. 47, ll. 1-3.)

I sang of love, too, knowing
nought thereof ;
“ Sweeter,” I said, “ the little
laugh of Love
Than tears out of the eyes of
Magdalen,
Or any fallen feather of the Dove.

(*Laus Veneris*, st. 71.)

Perhaps the little Pre-Raphaelite decorative “ *Ma-
donna Mia*,” the youngest-hearted of the *Poems and
Ballads*, may be taken as representative of the period
referred to in these last two quotations :

Under deep apple-boughs
My lady hath her house ;
She wears upon her brows
The flower thereof ;
All saying but what God saith
To her is as vain breath ;
She is more strong than death,
Being strong as love.

I am inclined, then, to take “ *Madonna Mia* ” as one of
the earliest poems in the series. With it may come
“ *St. Dorothy*,” less charming, more obviously striving
for simplicity of mood and childlike grace, but still un-
troubled with the mystery of life and reverent in the
treatment of God (“ And covers all their beauty with
his wings ”).

1859 ?-
1860 ?

“The Leper” and “Les Noyades” are troubled or ^{APPENDIX} _{VI.} defiant in mood, and in theme approach, though at a distance, for they are technically less mature than it, the great poem “Laus Veneris,” which W. B. Scott’s record places in 1862; and which its relation with the Fane-Bulwer-Lytton *Tannhäuser* (1861) would also establish near that time. In 1862 a number of poems were published—some of them perhaps of earlier date: “A Song in Time of Order” and “A Song in Time of Revolution” (both deriving from Hugo, see Appendix X.), “The Fratricide,” “Faustine,” “After Death,” “The Sundew” (as happy in love as “Madonna Mia”), and “Before Parting.” With this last the “Rondel” (“These many years”) allies itself. In these two last, love is foiled; the gods have shown grief to be the one fixed star.

1861-
1862.

In this same year, Swinburne’s defence of Meredith’s *Modern Love* appeared, and his essay on Baudelaire’s *Les Fleurs du Mal* (see Appendices VII. and IX.). From these poems “Dolores” and “Anactoria” borrow something. They are dramatic presentations of the personal situation (so described by Swinburne) of “The Triumph of Time”; which probably precedes them in order of composition. Love-foiled has become love-frantic, expressing itself in the “Triumph of Time” by raising the question of divine indifference:

Do the high gods know or the great gods care?
Though the swords in my heart for one were seven,
Would the iron hollow of doubtful heaven,
That knows not itself whether night-time or day be,
Reverberate words and a foolish prayer?

(St. 32, ll. 4-8)

Cf. *Rubáiyát*, lxxii.

and by turning in quest of some destroying sin. “Dolores” realises this sin. In “Anactoria” a similar mood finds its first expression in violent abuse of deity; and in “Félice,” a poem also influenced by Meredith, in denial of God and a quest of death. Of these last two,

1868.

APPENDIX "Anactoria" is likely of 1863 date; and "Félice" may
VI. be even later.

The series of archaics, such as "The Masque of Queen Bersabe," beginning with some reference to David in *The Queen Mother*, 1860, and coming to known date again in 1864 with the interludes to *The Pilgrim of Pleasure*, probably has vogue or climax also in 1868. "Aholibah" is a by-product of *Chastelard*, which was "partly written by a youngster not yet emancipated from servitude to college rule," and must have been substantially complete by 1863. The "Masque" is in like case; and it connects also with "After Death" (1862).

With "Anactoria," but freed from erotic passion, group themselves such poems as "A Lamentation," "A Litany," "A Ballad of Burdens," "Ilicet" (relating also to the character Félice), and "The Garden of Proserpine." And these chiefly lead to *Atalanta in Calydon*, which, published in 1865, must have been written about

1864. 1864-65. It is the culmination of the moods of wild defiance of "God"; and toward the end reaches the conclusion that "silence is more noble till the end" (1204). "Ilicet" and "The Garden of Proserpine" with their longing for death are, in a way, expressive of this same idea. It also reaches the conclusion that, despite the restraining laws of the universe, a man may achieve some freedom, and "die the sweet wise death of old men honourable." With this connects the poem "To Victor Hugo"; and also the ode "In Memory of Landor"; the latter the more hopeful, and definitely of 1864 date. With it also connects (through the description of the Hesperides common to both) the culmination of the "Dolores" trilogy, "Hesperia." Here a new love rules the heart, a "goddess of redemption" is revealed, with whom there is to be life-long flight from the "goddess that consumes." It is possible that this poem (technically reckless as it is), with its positive note, may come as late as 1865; the year of the "Dedication" and perhaps also of the "Ballad of Life and

Ballad of Death" (written in the fashion of the earlier APPENDIX poems), which serve as introduction to the collection. VI.

The poems, conceived in the order suggested, show a steady development. The progress is one of purification of style: of maturation. They begin with light love, drift into erotic ecstasy and agony; arise to rail at heaven; sink into the pause and peace of the "Garden of Proserpine"; and emerge with a faith in man: the man Hugo, in a poem where the faith is strong but with little hope; the man Landor, in a poem where it finds some gladness in invoking the

. . . spirit that man's life left pure,
Man's death set free.

APPENDIX VII

SWINBURNE AND BAUDELAIRE

APPENDIX VII. SWINBURNE's essay on Baudelaire, *Les Fleurs du Mal*, "A Notice with Extracts," appeared in the *Spectator*, September 6, 1862. In words that strikingly anticipate what the critics in 1866 should say of himself in connection with his *Poems and Ballads*, he describes Baudelaire as having for the most part "chosen to dwell mainly upon sad and strange things—the weariness of pain and the bitterness of pleasure—the perverse happiness and wayward sorrows of exceptional people. . . . Failure and sorrow, next to physical beauty and perfection of sound or scent, seem to have an infinite attraction for him. . . . Not the luxuries of pleasure in their first simple form, but the sharp and cruel enjoyments of pain, the acrid relish of suffering felt and inflicted, the sides on which Nature looks unnatural, go to make up the stuff and substance of this poetry." But he adds, which his own critics did not: "It is not his or any artist's business to warn against evil; but certainly he does not exhort to it, knowing well enough that the one fault is as great as the other." "French critics," he begins by saying, "seemed to have forgotten that a poet's business is presumably to write good verses and by no means to redeem the age and remould society."

English critics suffered from the same loss of memory; and in *Notes on Poems and Reviews* of 1866 Swinburne had to remind them, as he had earlier reminded the French, that art and ethics are diverse. Comparison

can be made between his statement on his own account APPENDIX VII. and his statement on Baudelaire's; both, with Baudelaire's exposition. "Je ne veux pas dire que la poésie n'ennoblisse pas les mœurs. . . . Ce serait évidemment une absurdité. Je dis que, si le poète a poursuivi un but moral, il a diminué sa force poétique. . . . La poésie ne peut pas, sous peine de mort ou de déchéance, s'assimiler à la science ou à la morale" (*Oeuvres Complètes*, i. p. 28). "Je sais que, dans les régions éthérées de la véritable Poésie, le *mal* n'est pas, non plus que le *bien*" ("Les Fleurs du Mal": Dédicace à Théophile Gautier—in *Oeuvres Posthumes*).

Baudelaire then supplied Swinburne with a theory of art. He also did more than this. Such poems as his "Lesbos" had many suggestions for "Anactoria"; "Sed Non Satiata" and the Epilogue to *Petits Poèmes en Prose* for "Dolores"; the chief idea being the terrible attractiveness of sin. In the Epilogue he pictures himself as contemplating a city spread below him as he stands on a hill-top :

Hôpital, lupanars, purgatoire, enfer, bagne,
 Où toute énormité fleurit comme une fleur.
 Tu sais bien, O Satan, patron de ma détresse,
 Que je n'allais pas là pour répandre un vain pleur ;

 Mais comme un vieux paillard d'une vieille maîtresse
 Je voulais m'enivrer de l'énorme catin
 Dont le charme infernal me rajeunit sans cesse.

In "Sed Non Satiata" he addresses the embodiment of this evil :

Bizarre déité, brune comme les nuits,
 Au parfum mélange de musc et de havane ;
 Œuvre de quelque obi, le Faust de la savane,
 Sorcière au flanc d'ébène, enfant des noirs minuits ;
 Je préfère au constance, à l'opium, aux nuits
 L'élixir de ta bouche où l'amour se pavane, etc.

The last two lines, at least, will not seem strange to the

APPENDIX reader of Swinburne. Compare them with "Dolores" VII. (st. 22) :

The desire of thy furious embraces
Is more than the wisdom of years,
On the blossom though blood lie in traces,
Though the foliage be sodden with tears.

No more than Baudelaire does he try to make vice attractive. But with him he celebrates its terror; and more beautifully if less potently. A comparison of "constance, l'opium, les nuits" with "the wisdom of years" may well give a measure of the increase. By sheer force of music he has lifted into the sphere of art sentiments possessed of what Professor Elton (contrasting Swinburne with D'Annunzio) calls a "callow particularity." A perfect example of this is to be found in the sixth glorious stanza of his ode "Ave Atque Vale," in memory of Baudelaire, where, from the pygmy details and clay image of the latter's *La Géante*, he has created a superb and Michaelangelesque goddess.

NOTE TO SECTION ON BAUDELAIRE

Baudelaire and "Laus Veneris."—Swinburne prefixes to his poem a passage in old French from *Maistre Antoine Gaget*, 1580; no such name appears in the British Museum catalogue or in that of the Bibliothèque Nationale. I have seen it suggested that the "maistre" is supposititious. However, this may be, *Tannhäuser* was new to the world in Swinburne's youth, and over date of March 18, 1861, there is Baudelaire's comment upon it. There is nothing in Wagner's libretto that suggests Swinburne's poem; but in Baudelaire's interpretation of the overture there is a good deal: "Aux titillations sataniques d'un vague amour succèdent bientôt des étraînements, des éblouissements, des cris de victoire, des gémissements de gratitude, et puis des hurlements de férocité. . . ." Then, of Venusberg . . . "respirant une atmosphère parfumée, mais étouffante, éclairée par une lumière rose qui ne venait pas du soleil;

nous étions semblables au Chevalier Tannhäuser lui-^{APPENDIX}
même, qui, saturé des délices énervantes, *aspire à la*
douleur" (Baudelaire, *L'Art Romantique*, Œuvres iii.
282, 283). In his *Notes on Poems and Reviews* Swinburne
says that this review of Baudelaire's came to him after
"Laus Veneris" had been completed; but it may
nevertheless be taken as representative of the sort of
comment on *Tannhäuser* that reached his ears early
enough to influence the poem.

APPENDIX VIII

MATTHEW ARNOLD AND SWINBURNE

Showing that the pessimism of "Félice" derives in some measure from Arnold's *Empedocles on Etna*; as do also the fatalism of *Atalanta* (though by misconstruction of Arnold) and the pantheism of "Hertha."

APPENDIX VIII. — MR. ARNOLD says that the poem of *Empedocles on Etna* was withdrawn before fifty copies of the first edition were sold" (1852); "I must suppose then that one of those was the copy I had when a schoolboy—how snatched betimes from the wreck and washed across my way I know not; but I remember well enough how then as now the songs of Callicles clove to my ear and memory. Early as this was it was not my first knowledge of the poet; the 'Reveller,' the 'Merman,' the 'New Sirens,' I had mainly by heart in a time of childhood just ignorant of teens. . . . I cannot reckon the help and guidance in thought and work which I owe to him as to all other real and noble artists, whose influence it was my fortune to feel when most susceptible of influence, and least conscious of it, and most in want" (Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, "Matthew Arnold's New Poems," 1867, pp. 124-125). He goes on: "The largest if not the brightest jewel . . . the one long and lofty chant of Empedocles." With this profession of faith before us, it need be no surprise that there are deeds to confirm it. His early work, as we have shown, does obviously owe something to many "real and noble artists," and Arnold is not least among them.

Empedocles on Etna

(Empedocles' Chant)

The outspread world to span
 A cord the gods first slung,
 And then the soul of man
 There, like a mirror, hung,
 And bade the winds through space
 impel the gusty toy.

The gods laugh in their sleeve
 To watch man doubt and fear . . .

Fools ! that so often here
 Happiness mocked our prayer,
 I think might make us fear
 A like event elsewhere.

But next we would reverse
 The scheme ourselves have spun,
 And what we made to curse
 We fain would lean upon,
 And feign kind gods who perfect
 what man vainly tries.

Fools, that in man's brief term
 He cannot all things view,
 Affords no ground to affirm
 That there are gods who do, etc.

It is noticeable that though Swinburne adopts Arnold's agnosticism, he does not adopt here the doctrine of self-

Atalanta, Félice, Hertha

APPENDIX

VIII.

Cf. the second chorus of *Atalanta* on the "making of man." It is distinct, shows no verbal borrowing. Yet,

... the high gods took in hand

Fire and the falling of tears, etc., is not utterly unlike this idea, which—a circumstance to be noted—Empedocles merely echoes from Pausanias and disregards in order to advance the philosophy of self-sufficiency.

For none shall move the most high gods,
 Who are most sad, being cruel
 none
 Shall break or take away the rods
 Wherewith they scourge us, not
 as one
 That smites a son.

(*Félice.*)

When have they heard us ? who
 hath known
 Their faces, climbed unto their
 feet,
 Felt them and found them ?
 Laugh or groan,
 Doth heaven remurmur and
 repeat
 Sad sounds or sweet ?

(42.)

Ye must have gods, the friends of
 men,
 Merciful gods, compassionate,
 And these shall answer you again.
 Will ye beat always at the gate,
 Ye fools of fate ?

APPENDIX VIII. reliance which is the culmination of Empedocles' soliloquy. In flat violation of it, in fact, he introduces a sort of Lucretian sadness: we have the gift to die and forget all sad and glad things. The poem "To Victor Hugo" shows a definite advance beyond this. It is certainly of later date than "Félice." Consider, for instance, its stoic creed :

One thing we can : to be
Awhile, as man may, free . . . etc. (9).

Despite all trouble and change,

Yea, one thing more than this,
We know that one thing is,
The splendour of a spirit without blame . . . etc. (23).

The idea of the futility of prayer introduced in *Atalanta* (Althea in the parados: "I marvel what men do with prayer awake," etc.) may be something of a reminiscence of both Arnold and FitzGerald's *Omar*, lxxii.

Empedocles on Etna

All things the world which fill
Of but one stuff are spun,
That we who rail are still
With what we rail at, one :
One with the o'er-laboured Power
that through the breadth and
length, etc.

Hertha

Beside or above me
Nought is there to go ;
Love or unlove me,
Unknow me or know,
I am that which unloves me and
loves ;
I am stricken and I am the
blow, etc.

It will be noticed here, that by a comparatively simple variation of Arnold's stanza, which at best stumbles into music, being content rather to walk erect in a rhythmical prose, Swinburne has created a really beautiful form. It gives grace to "Hertha" and also to Meleager's antiphonal lament with the chorus in *Atalanta*.

APPENDIX IX

GEORGE MEREDITH'S "MODERN LOVE" AND SWINBURNE

Showing that some of the harsh sensuousness of "Anactoria" and "Félice," etc., may have been suggested by Meredith.

THE snakes and odours that run riot in *Poems and Ballads* APPENDIX IX. are mostly of the Baudelaire brood. But it must have taken more than Baudelaire's decadence to so inform *Poems and Ballads* with the idea of the sadness of love as it is informed--more true poetry and genuine thought, even admitting a predilection on the part of the poet for unhappy themes, and a degree of personal experience that by any degree of exaggeration could find utterance in "The Triumph of Time." Of such genuine poetry, the Swinburne bibliography suggests as early possible influence George Meredith's *Modern Love*, defended by Swinburne in the *Spectator*, June 7, 1862. To this year or period I have assigned for other reasons the two poems "Félice" and "Anactoria." In essentials Meredith is far from both. In the *accidentals* of his work, however, there are certain uses that seem to have affected Swinburne's work. The husband, for instance, in the sonnet sequence, noting his wife's love for another man, expresses himself in a way that apparently influences the knight in "Laus Veneris" :

Lord God, who mad'st the thing so fair,
See that I am drawn to her even now !
It cannot be such harm on her cool brow
To put a kiss ? (iii.)

APPENDIX Or consider with "Faustine," 4 and 5, Sonnet ix.
 IX. lines 11 and 12 :

Carved lips that make my lips a And from her eyes, as from a
 cup poison-cup,
 To drink, Faustine, He drank until the flittering
 Wine and rank poison, milk and eyelids screened.
 blood.

Cf. from "Dolores" the strong metaphor of her first
 sinning with Sonnet xl. :

Wert thou young and a maiden, The dread that my old love may
 Dolores, be alive,
 When desire took thee first by Has seized my nursling new love
 the throat ? by the throat.

Setting aside the snakes—and there are enough of
 them from first to last in *Modern Love*—one important
 idea is common to Swinburne and this poem of Meredith's :
 the fearfulness of love. Never more (to misappropriate
 Mrs. Browning's phrase) do those cast out of love
 "command the uses of (their) soul" without fivefold
 protest of the senses. In Meredith the protest has
 control ; in Swinburne it is frenzied. But, with the
 passages from "Anactoria" already quoted compare :

" Ah, yes !
 " Love dies ! " I said : I never thought it less.
 She yearned to me that sentence to unsay.
 Then when the fire domed blackening, I found
 Her cheek was salt against my kiss, and swift
 Up the sharp scale of sobs her breast did lift :
 Now am I haunted by that taste ! that sound !

(xvi.)

The cruelty of love, also cf. "Anactoria" (also "Satia
 Te Sanguine," etc., Appendix III.).

Have I not felt her heart as 'twere my own
 Beat thro' me ? could I hurt her ? heaven and hell !
 But I could hurt her cruelly !

(xix.)

Compare with "Féline," Sonnets xlvi. and xlii. (quoted
 here).

He found her by the ocean's moaning verge,
Nor any wicked change in her discerned ;
But she believed his old love had returned,
Which was her exaltation and her scourge.

“ Félide ” has already been shown to depend upon Arnold for something of its philosophy ; perhaps it may not destroy its yet considerable independence to show how it is also sustained by Meredith.

APPENDIX X

HUGO INFLUENCE IN THE EARLY PERIOD

APPENDIX X. HUGO was, of course, one of the gods of Swinburne's devotion. The poem "To Victor Hugo" is the earliest, and, when all is said, perhaps the best of Swinburne's multitudinous and often too-excited expressions of devotion to him. But in addition to it, there are in *Poems and Ballads* at least two other witnesses of the same feeling. They are "A Song in Time of Revolution" and the superb "Song in Time of Order." They derive not from one or two, but from many of Hugo's poems in *Les Châtiments*. One illustration must suffice in the case of the first of these songs :

O king . . .

Shall God make a pact with thee, till his hook be found in thy
sides ?
Wilt thou put back the time of the sea, or the place of the season
of tides ? etc. etc.

Compare :

Les césars sont plus fiers que les vagues marines,
Mais Dieu dit : Je mettrai ma boucle en leurs narines,
 Et dans leur bouche un mors,
Et je les traineraï, qu'on cède ou bien qu'on lutte,
Eux et leurs histrions et leurs joueurs de flûte,
 Dans l'ombre où sont les morts !

("Lux," *Les Châtiments*, p. 442.)

This poem is quoted and praised in Swinburne's *Victor Hugo* (1886), p. 79.

"A Song in Time of Order" seems to get suggestions from at least three poems from *Les Châtiments*. A single

stanza will indicate its mood and setting—three ~~re-~~ APPENDIX X.
publicans launch a boat in a storm :

Out to the sea with her there,
Out with her over the sand ;
Let the kings keep the earth for their share !
We have done with the sharers of land.

Cf. *Livre* vi., iv. Chanson :

Le monde captif, sans lois et sans règles,
Est aux oppresseurs ;

•
Vous, laissez passer la foudre et la brume,
Les vents et les cris,
Afrontez l'orage, affrontez l'écume,
Rochers et proscrits !

Cf. also (*Livre* v., ix.), “ Le Chant de ceux qui s'en vont sur Mer” :

Adieu, patrie !
L'onde est en furie, etc.

Cf. also (*Livre* vi., iii.), “ Hymne des 'Transportés'” :

La plainte de Cayenne au sanglot de l'Afrique !
All the world has its burdens to bear,
From Cayenne to the Austrian whips ; etc.
(“ A Song in Time of Order.”)

Of these poems of Hugo's, Swinburne expresses especial preference for one. See *Birthday Ode*, in vol. iii. 370.

... their song, more sweet than heaven's may be
Who pass away by sea ;
The song that takes of old love's land farewell,
With pulse of plangent water like a knell.

The lines following this (Ant. 7) go on to describe “ Le Chasseur Noir” in language that is more than a little suggestive of “ A Song in Time of Revolution.”

Chastelard is dedicated to Hugo. The first of its French lyrics (to pause on one only) is modelled on “ Les

APPENDIX X. Djinns" (2) from "Les Orientales"; or on "Le Pas d'Armes du Roi Jean," which Swinburne praises in his *Victor Hugo*, p. 10 :

La cohue,
Flot de fer,
Frappe, hue,
Remplit l'air,
Et, profonde,
Tourne et gronde,
Comme une onde,
Sur la mer.
(*Le Pas d'Armes*, etc.)

Le vent passe
Comme un fer.

4

Le navire,
Passe et luit,
Puis chavire
A grand bruit;
Et sur l'onde
La plus blonde
Tête au monde
Flotte et fuit.

(*Chastelard.*)

LIST OF THE MORE IMPORTANT BOOKS UTILISED IN PREPARATION OF THIS ESSAY

Swinburne

“ The Queen Mother and Rosamond ” (1860). (Second edition. Hotten, 1868.)
Poems. 6 vols. (Harpers, 1904.)
Notes on Poems and Reviews. (1866.)
Selections from Swinburne’s poems (Chatto and Windus, 1913), with an appended sketch of the poet’s life by himself.
Selected Poems of Swinburne. (Payne). Belles Lettres Series : Notes.
Swinburne’s Dramas. (Beatty Ed., Crowe^{!!}, 1909.) Notes.
William Blake : A Critical Essay. (1868.)
Under the Microscope. (1872.)
Essays and Studies. (1875.)
Victor Hugo. (1886.)
Miscellanies. (1886.)
Studies in Prose and Poetry. (1897.)
Charles Dickens (1913), with notes on Swinburne’s ancestry, etc.

• *Biographical*

Portraits and Sketches, by Edmund Gosse. (Heinemann, 1912.)
Article on “ Swinburne ” in Encyclopædia Britannica.
“ Recollections of Swinburne,” by Edmund Gosse : *Fortnightly Review*, 1909.
“ The Boyhood of Swinburne,” by Mrs. Disney Leith : *Contemporary Review*, 1910.

To these must be added as this Essay goes to press :

The Life of Algernon Charles Swinburne, by Edmund Gosse. (Macmillan.)
Algernon Charles Swinburne, by his cousin, Mrs. Disney Leith, with a selection from his letters.

Both of these books I have been able to use in finally revising my work. The first supplied the information for which acknowledgment is made in note 93 ; and Mrs. Leith's Selections, that acknowledged in note 58.

Landor

Works. 8 vols. (Chapman & Hall, 1876.)

Letters : Public and Private. Ed. Wheeler. (Duckworth, 1899.)

Colvin. Landor. (English Men of Letters Series.)

Colvin. Selections from the Writings of Landor. (Golden Treasury Series.)

See also : Dickens, Bleak House. (Mr. Boythorn.)

Mazzini

Life and Writings. 6 vols. (Smith, Elder & Co., 1908.)

Duties of Man, etc. (Everyman's Library.)

Life of, by Bolton King. (Everyman's Library.)

HUGO. Œuvres Complètes (Paris, 1882) : Esp. vol. iv., Les Châtiments.

BAUDELAIRE. Œuvres Complètes.

MORRIS. The Collected Works of William Morris. (Longmans.)

ROSSETTI, DANTE GABRIEL. Collected Works. (Ellis and Elvey, 1890.)

Guide Books to Personalia of the Period

GEORGE MEREDITH. Letters. 2 vols.

Rossetti Papers, 1862-1870.

Some Reminiscences. 2 vols.

William Bell Scott, Autobiographical Notes of the Life of.

ERNEST CLARENCE STEDMAN. Letters.

Political History

BOLTON KING. History of Italian Unity.

JUSTIN M'CARTHY. History of our Own Times.

TREVELYAN. Garibaldi and the Thousand, etc.

Encyclopædia Britannica on Italy.

NOTES

1. Swinburne, *Poems*, vol. i.; Dedicatory Epistle, p. xxiv.
2. *Idem*, p. viii.
3. Swinburne, *Miscellanies*, p. 207, “Landor.” Also *Encyclo-pædia Britannica*.
4. Landor, *Works*.
5. Swinburne, *Poems*, vol. i. p. xxiii.
6. Landor, vol. i. (Biography), p. 108.
7. Landor, i. 45.
8. Colvin, *Landor* (Eng. Men of Letters Ser.), cf. p. 173.
9. Landor, viii. 179.
10. Landor, v. 519.
11. Landor, ii. 73, 74.
12. Landor, iv. 4.
13. Landor, iv. 433.
14. Landor, iv. 488.
15. Landor, i. 392.
16. Landor, i. 388.
17. Landor, i. 320.
18. Landor, i. 136.
19. Landor, iv. 15.
20. Landor, iv. 427.
21. Landor, v. 83.
22. Cf. Landor, viii. 316 and viii. 183.
23. Landor, v. 396, 397.
24. Landor, vii. 143.
25. Landor, ii. 545.
26. Cf. Landor, ii. 286, where Lucian speaks of dogs, with Swinburne, *At a Dog's Grave*, vi. 418.
27. Colvin, *Landor*, p. 136.
28. Colvin, *Landor*, p. 139.
29. Landor, vi. 238.
30. Landor, iv. 428.
31. Landor, iv. 427.
32. Colvin, *Landor*, p. 177.

33. The little elegy beginning, "Ah, what avails the sceptred race."
34. Landor, *Letters, Public and Private*, p. 134.
35. Dickens, *Bleak House*, chap. ix.
36. Landor, i. 466.
37. Landor, i. 204.
38. Landor, vi. 472.
39. Landor, v. 430.
40. Landor, vi. 275.
41. Landor, vii. 186.
42. Cf. Landor, iv. 435.
43. See Landor, vol. iii., *The Pentameron*.
44. Landor, iii. 463.
45. Landor, iii. 464.
46. Landor, iii. 457.
47. Landor, viii. 419.
48. Landor, iv. 128 ; see also iv. 512.
49. Landor, i. 496-7.
50. Landor, iv. 43.
51. Landor, i. 496.
52. Landor, iv. 101.
53. Landor, *Popery : British and Foreign*.
54. Landor, i. 377.
55. Landor, iv. 123.
56. Landor, i. 125.
57. Landor, i. 495.
58. Mrs. Disney Leith, *Letters of Swinburne*.
59. Swinburne, *Charles Dickens* (1913), Illustrative Notes.
60. *London Times* (Weekly), 1909, p. 246.
61. Edmund Gosse, *Portraits and Sketches*, pp. 1-58, on Swinburne. Also in the *Fortnightly Review*, xci. 1019.
62. *Contemporary Review*, xcvi. 305 ; Mrs. Disney Leith on "The Boyhood of Algernon Charles Swinburne."
63. Gosse, *Fortnightly Review*, vol. xci.
64. Colvin, *Landor*, 179.
65. Landor is one of the most accomplished English writers of stately prose, and it is to be expected that he should have various technical devices at his command. He does not overwork any one of these. Yet his sentences are frequently long, and very often arrange their substantives, adjectives, phrases, or clauses in series of two, three, or four ; often of two. Consider this, picked up at random : "If it were allowable for me to *disdain* or *despise* even the wickedest and vilest of God's creatures, in which condition a *king* peradventure as easily as any other may be, I think I could, without much *perplexity* or *inquiry*, find something in the multitude of his blessings quite as reasonable and proper

to thank him for" (iii. 259). The trick is old, of course; as a mannerism as old in English as the advent of the Senecan School in opposition to the Ciceronians, whose word-grouping was generally in series of three. In Sir William Temple it is most distinctly a mannerism, but may be traced back to Sir Edward Sandys, to whom Temple acknowledges a debt. All great writers must use it: compare Milton from *The Reason of Church Government urged against Prelaty*, the sentence which Landor (misquoting it) hails as the acme and triumph of human harmony: "But when God commands to take the trumpet and blow a *dolorous* or a *jarring blast*, it lies not in man's will what he shall *say* or what he shall *conceal*." Swinburne makes as much of a mannerism out of it as Temple. Cf. from his "August Vaquerie" in *Miscellanies* (1886): "The weight and edge of his trenchant and pungent style, the point and balance of this vivid and virile prose . . . are never used but to the direct end wanted, in swift and loyal service of the immediate need." See also his grotesque style exhibited in the article on Marlowe, *North American Review*, May 1916. It would almost appear that a poet, out of his medium, were clutching ("trenchant and pungent"!) at the readiest device thrown in his way to insure to himself, not that "other rhythm of prose," but a sort of pseudo-prosodic regularity and metronomic beat. Perhaps it was Landor who showed him the device: his misuse of it is on his own head.

66. See Swinburne, *Poems*, vol. i.; the "Dedicatory Epistle," p. xxii.

67. See Swinburne, *Miscellanies*, p. 15.

68. See Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, p. 118.

69. The important connection here is, of course, not with Landor but with Rossetti, whose Christian art derives somewhat from Carpaccio and Bellini; his romantic treatment of classical subjects from Mantegna and Botticelli; so W. M. Rossetti finds it. (*Some Reminiscences*, W. M. Rossetti, i. 211.)

70. Swinburne, *Studies in Prose and Poetry*, p. 93.

71. Swinburne, *Studies in Prose and Poetry*, p. 84.

72. Landor, i. 462.

73. Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, p. 93.

74. Swinburne, *Under the Microscope*.

75. Landor, i. 502.

76. Landor, i. 524.

77. Landor, i. 543.

78. *Life and Writings of Edmund Clarence Stedman*, i. 406.

79. Landor, i. 526.

80. See also the dedication to *Atalanta in Calydon*.

81. Following the translation in Beatty, *Swinburne's Dramas*.

82. (Alcibiades and Xenophon in *Pericles and Aspasia*.)

83. Swinburne, *Songs before Sunrise*, Prelude.
 84. Landor, viii. 216.
 85. Cf. Landor, vi. 445 and v. 347.
 86. Swinburne, *Miscellanies*, p. 207.
 87. Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, p. 213.
 88. Swinburne, *Victor Hugo*, p. 7.
 89. Cf. Swinburne, *Poems and Ballads*, First Series, "To Victor Hugo."
 O nursed in airs apart,
 O poet highest of heart,
 Hast thou seen time who hast seen so many things ?

90. A paraphrase of Landor's inscription for the Spanish patriots who died in defence of their land against Napoleon :

Emeriti, lubenter, quiescerimus
 Libertate parta
 Quiescimus amissa perlubenter.

A more literal translation is given in Swinburne's "Ode for the Centenary of Landor." See Payne, *Selected Poems of Swinburne*, p. 375.

91. One may notice here a sort of speech which is Hugo-esque, not Landorian. Cf. *Les Châtiments*, p. 269, the last lines of "Pauline Roland" :

Et maintenant, évêques,
 Debout, la mitre au front, dans l'ombre du saint lieu.
 Crachez vos Te Deum à la face de Dieu !

92. See *The Life of Mrs. Lynn Linton*, by G. S. Layard, p. 240, her letter to Swinburne.

93. Edmund Gosse, *The Life of Algernon Charles Swinburne*, p. 21.

94. *London Times* (Weekly), 1909, p. 246.
 95. Landor, i. 457.
 96. Landor, vi. 97.
 97. Landor, *Letters*, p. 309.
 98. Landor, *Letters*, p. 317.
 99. Landor, *Letters*, p. 302.
 100. Landor, *Letters*, p. 323.
 101. Bolton King, *History of Italian Unity*, ii. 47.
 102. Bolton King, *History of Italian Unity*, ii. 74.
 103. Bolton King, *History of Italian Unity*, ii. 77, 81.
 104. Cf. Hugo, *Les Châtiments*, "Cette Nuit-là," describing the night of the *coup d'État* :

... Cette nuit vont surgir mes projets invisibles.
 Les Saint-Barthélemy sont encore possibles.

Paris dort, comme au temps de Charles de Valois ;
 Vous allez dans un sac mettre toutes les lois,
 Et par-dessus le poat les jeter dans la Seine. . . .

105. Swinburne, *Miscellanies*, p. 379.

106. See Edmund Gosse, "Swinburne's Unpublished Writings," *Fortnightly Review*, August 1914.

107. Swinburne, *Miscellanies*, p. 376.

108. Swinburne, *Poems*, vol. i. p. x.

109. Landor, *Letters*, p. 304.

110. See Appendix X. on Hugo.

111. *Selections from Swinburne's Poems* (Chatto & Windus, 1913), Appendix II. p. 261.

112. *Contemporary Review*, May 1909, xciv. 531.

113. Letter from Mr. Gosse.

114. See Greek dedicatory poem prefixed to *Atalanta* : "For he has sung to many a lyre, and often has Apollo found him seated in the glens and crowned him with flowers, and granted him to speak of pleasant things : of Pan, ever-to-be-remembered, of Pitys, of ill-fated Corythos, of the divine Hamadryad whom a mortal loved" (Beatty's translation in *Swinburne's Dramas*, p. 363).

115. Swinburne, *Poems*, vol. i. p. x.

116. Cf. Rossetti, "Jenny" :
 She might have served a painter to portray
 That heavenly child which in the latter days, etc.

117. Cf. Marlowe, *Hero and Leander* :
 Thee as a holy idiot doth she (Venus) scorn ;
 For thou, in vowing chastity, hast sworn
 To rob her name and honour, and thereby
 Commitst a sin far worse than perjury,
 Even sacrilege against her Deity,
 Through regular and formal purity.
 (1st Sestiad.)

Cf. also Rossetti, "House of Life." lxxxv, *Vain Virtues*.

118. Swinburne, *William Blake*, p. 146.

119. Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, p. 90.

120. George Meredith, *Letters*, i. 24.

121. Marillier, Rossetti, p. 51.

122. George Meredith, *Letters*, i. 53.

123. Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, p. 115. He writes, nevertheless, "O sickle cutting harvest all day long," whereas all copies of Morris that I have consulted read, "O sickle cutting hemlock all day long."

124. *Essays and Studies*, p. 113.

125. In one of the early MS. of the *Hill of Venus* Morris introduces a beautiful touch of his own which does not appear in the final version. Venus wearies of her lover :

. . . ere dawn was fully come
She woke, and fell a-longing for the sea,
And the broad yellow sands of her old home,
Where by their black boats fisher people be. . . .

So she leaves him. The passage is one in idea (though the reverse in person) with that in "Thalassius," which describes the youth as wearying of Erigone, and responding to the call of the sea. (See *Collected Works of William Morris*, vol. vi. p. xx.)

126. Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, "Rossetti," p. 79.
127. Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, "Rossetti," p. 96.
128. See Appendix VII. on Baudelaire.
129. ". . . so much the noblest of sacred poems in our language that there is none which comes near it enough to stand second," etc. (Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, p. 175, note).
130. Swinburne on "King Lear."
131. Swinburne on "King Lear."
132. Webster, *Duchess of Malfy*, iv. 2, 130.
133. Marston, *The Malcontent*, iv. 5, 122.
134. Chapman, *Bussy d'Ambois*, v. 2, to chance upon a few suggestions from the Elizabethans on whom Swinburne nourished his youth.
135. Baudelaire, *Lesbos*.
136. Landor, ii. 388.
137. Cf. Shelley, *Queen Mab*, vii; viii, 165.
138. Cf. Shelley, *Hellas*, Sc. 1 :

Cho. In the great morning of the world,
The Spirit of God with might unfurled
The flag of Freedom over Chaos, etc.

139. Robert Buchanan, *A Look round Literature*, p. 53. He refers to J. A. Symonds' contention for the rehabilitation of Zeus in the (lost) "Prometheus Luomenos," which appeared in the *Cornhill*. Cf. Aesch. Fr., p. 293; *Suppliants*, pp. 567-595 :

The air is Zeus, Zeus earth, and Zeus the heaven,
Zeus all that is, and what transcends them all.
(Plumtree.)

140. See Appendix VIII.
141. Landor, vii. 548.
142. Landor, vii. 507.
143. Landor, vii. 507.
144. Landor, vii. 502.

145. Landor, vii. 506.

146. See Appendix VIII.

147. Cf. Landor, vii. 509

148. The references to Thetis and to Heracles in this poem not improbably derive from the *Hellenics*, "Peleus and Thetis" (in which, however, Achilles does not figure) and "Heracles, Alcestis, Pluto, Admetos."

149. Cf. *Empedocles on Etna* : "The gods laugh in their sleeve," etc. See Appendix VII.

150. Cf. Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*, p. 523 ff. (The Fates guide the helm of necessity—even against Zeus.)

151. "Hymn to Proserpine." Cf. *Queen Mab*, iv, 189 :

Throughout this varied and eternal world
Soul is the only element : the block
That for uncounted ages has remained, etc.

152. *Atalanta*, third Chorus.

153. *Atalanta*, fourth Chorus.

154. *Atalanta*, fourth Chorus.

155. Swinburne, *William Blake*, pp. 192-3. The title-page of the essay is dated 1868, but the dedication is dated 1866, and the first part was written before 1864 (when Landor died); see p. 78.

156. *Atalanta*, lines 409-22.

157. Swinburne, *Poems*, v. 27 ; "Song for the Centenary of Landor," p. 34.

158. Landor, vi. 98, a conversation which is mindful of the suppression of the Spanish Revolution of 1820.

159. Landor, ii. 260.

160. Landor, vi. 98.

161. Landor, ii. 89.

162. *Westminster Review* (lxxxvii.), 1867, p. 456.

163. Swinburne, *Victor Hugo*, pp. 120-1.

164. Edward Thomas, "A. C. S. : A Critical Study," quoting from *Of Liberty and Loyalty*, 1866.

165. *Atalanta*, II. 1761-2.

166. Landor, ii. 367-8.

167. Landor, ii. 272.

168. Landor, iii. 277.

169. Landor, vi. 283.

170. Swinburne, *Blake*, pp. 90, 93. This essay is dated in the Swinburne bibliographies, 1868. But the Dedication is dated November 1866. Furthermore, a note to p. 78 records that that section of the work was written as early as 1863. The credo on "art for art" may then be taken as well within the chronological limits (1859-65) of *Poems and Ballads*.

171. Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, p. 42. The new aesthetic

credo appears in an essay on *L'Année Terrible*. There is, however, nothing to support the possible conjecture that the modification of the early "art for art" theory is the result of Hugo's influence. See *Blake*, p. 87.

- 172. Landor, iv. 481.
- 173. Landor, iv. 43.
- 174. Landor, iv. 391.
- 175. Landor, viii. 386.
- 176. Landor, v. 120.
- 177. Landor, iii. 525.
- 178. Landor, ii. 415.
- 179. Landor, *Letters*, p. 57.
- 180. Milton, *Prose Works* (Bohn), ii. 474.
- 181. Chaucer, *House of Fame*, iii. 589-90; Boethius, ii., prose 2, 45-50, may be compared with the fourth chorus of *Atalanta*: Chaucer's word "perdurable" with the use in *Atalanta*; Emily's prayer to Diana in *The Knight's Tale* with Atalanta's speech in the third Episode, etc.
- 182. Meredith, *Vittoria*, chap. xxiv.
- 183. Landor, v. 152; cf. v. 561.
- 184. Landor, iii. 460.
- 185. For Swinburne's acknowledgment of Landor's praise of Hugo, see *Essays and Studies*, p. 22, note.
- 186. Swinburne, "Studies in Prose and Poetry," *Les Cenci*, p. 146.
- 187. Swinburne, "Studies in Prose and Poetry," *Les Cenci*, p. 154.
- 188. Landor, i. 62 and 445.
- 189. Swinburne, *Essays and Studies*, p. 213.
- 190. Victor Hugo, *Correspondence*, 1836-82. Letter of July 1869.
- 191. Cf. *Essays and Studies*, p. 215.
- 192. Landor, iii. 351.
- 193. Colvin, *Landor*.
- 194. Landor, iv. 206.
- 195. Swinburne, *Miscellanies*, p. 148, referring to Wordsworth, "Memories of a Tour in Italy in 1837," Sonnet xi. See also the first poem and the twenty-fifth.
- 196. Byron, *Childe Harold*, Canto iv., xviii, xlvi, xlvi.
- 197. Landor, iii. 496.
- 198. Landor, viii. 144.
- 199. Landor, iv. 418, 419.
- 200. Landor, v. 146.
- 201. Landor, iii. 491. Cf. Swinburne, *Poems*, i. p. viii (Dedication Epistle): "Monarchists and anarchists may be advocates of national dissolution and reactionary division: republicans

cannot be. The first and last article of their creed is unity : the most grinding and crushing tyranny of a convention, a directory, or a despotism is less incompatible with republican faith than the fissiparous democracy of disunionists or communalists."

202. Landor, cf. v. 501.
203. Landor, vii. 254 ("Siege of Ancona").
204. Landor, v. 135 : *Alfieri and Metastasio* ; first published 1856.
205. The stanza, it will be noticed, of Swinburne's "In Memory of Landor," *Poems and Ballads*, i.
206. Landor, viii. 216.
207. Landor, viii. 314.
208. Landor, viii. 314.
209. Landor, vi. 613-15.
210. *Rossetti Papers*, 1862-1870, p. 221. It is interesting to note that Swinburne did not meet Mazzini until these two "humanitarian" poems were composed.
211. Meredith, *Letters*, i. 188.
212. Referring to the battles of Custoza and Lissa.
213. Meredith, *Vittoria*, xvi. 188 ("Memorial" edition).
214. Meredith, *Vittoria*, xxiv. 276.
215. Meredith, *Vittoria*, xvii. 201.
216. See Meredith, *Letters*, i. 182 : also *Rossetti Papers*.
217. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Italy."
218. Bolton King, *Life of Mazzini*, p. 207.
219. From Mazzini's address to the Roman Senate (1849), quoted by his friend, Margaret Fuller Ossoli : *At Home and Abroad*, p. 366. For Landor's tribute to her see viii. 226.
220. *Life and Writings of Joseph Mazzini* (Smith, Elder & Co., London, 1908), v. 254.
221. Bolton King, *Life of Mazzini*, p. 208.
222. Bolton King, *Life of Mazzini*, p. 352.
223. Bolton King, *History of Italian Unity*, ii. 338.
224. Bolton King, *Life of Mazzini*, p. 269.
225. Mazzini, iii. 82.
226. Mazzini, v. 274.
227. Bolton King, *Life of Mazzini*, p. 181.
228. Mazzini, iv. 216.
229. Mazzini, iv. 313.
230. Swinburne, *Love's Cross Currents*, p. 215, written when he was twenty-four, printed pseudonymously in the *Tatler*, 1877, and published with his imprimatur in 1905.
231. Blake, *A Memorable Fancy*, quoted by Swinburne, *Blake*, p. 222.
232. Landor, iii. 457.
233. Landor, v. 121.

234. Landor, viii. 152.
 235. Landor, iv. 118.
 236. Swinburne, *Blake*, p. 304.
 237. Swinburne, *Blake*, p. 304.
 238. Landor, iv. 428.
 239. Landor, i. 495.
 240. Landor, iv. 128.
 241. Landor, v. 85.
 242. Landor, iv. 512.
 243. Landor, vi. 45.
 244. In 1844 Mazzini's mail was tampered with in the London Post Office, and information transmitted to Naples, which led to the arrest and execution of the brothers Bandieri (celebrated in "A Song of Italy"). The situation was exposed in the House of Commons and a storm of protest set loose against the Government.
 245. *Rossetti Papers*, p. 226.
 246. *Rossetti Papers*, pp. 230-1.
 247. See Chapter VII.
 248. *Rossetti Papers*, p. 242.
 249. Edmund Gosse, *Portraits and Sketches*, p. 18.
 250. Edmund Gosse, *Portraits and Sketches*, p. 24.
 251. Referring to "A Song of Italy."
 252. Swinburne, *Poems*, i. (Dedicatory Epistle, viii).
 253. Mazzini, iv. See *The Duties of Man*.
 254. Mazzini, iv. 232.
 255. Mazzini, iv. 254.
 256. Bolton King, *Life of Mazzini*, p. 282.
 257. Bolton King, *Life of Mazzini*, p. 305.
 258. Swinburne, *Poems*, i. p. viii.
 259. Mazzini, *The Duties of Man*, etc. (Everyman Library), p. 306.
 260. Mazzini, v. 340.
 261. Cf. such poems as "Lux," i, iii, iv, in *Les Châtiments*—a celebration of La République Universelle ("Demain tu seras le soleil !"; "Dieu dénoûra toute chaîne"). Cf. also "Ce Que dit la Bouche d'Ombre" in *Les Contemplations*, especially the last section. It is the "inevitable and infinite birth of things good and absorption of things evil." But it is not on earth; it is in Paradise.
 262. Mazzini, *Duties of Man*, etc., p. 287 ("Letter to the Oecumenical Council").
 263. Mazzini's "Letter to the Council," or "From the Council to God," was published in the *Fortnightly Review*, June 1870. Swinburne may have seen it in MS. before publication. But in any case the two relate to the Oecumenical Council in session. It convened December 8, 1869. And so it is difficult to believe

that the "Hymn of Man" was written in April 1868, as has been stated in a biographical article.

264. Swinburne, *Blake*, pp. 166, 222.

265. Mazzini, iv. 78.

266. Mazzini, iv. 254.

267. The metaphor of "Pilgrimage" or "marching" is common enough in Mazzini; but it may not be without some significance to point out a resemblance between the opening lines of "The Pilgrims" and those of one of Landor's poems:

Swinburne:

Who is your lady of love, O ye that pass
Singing? . . .

Landor (viii. 150):

Who are these men that pass us? men well-girt
For voyaging; of aspect meek, of breath
Ardent, of eyes that only look to heaven.

268. Mazzini, iv. 292.

269. Bolton King, *Life of Mazzini*, p. 80, etc.

270. Mazzini, iv. 78.

271. Mazzini, iv. 230.

272. Mazzini, vi. 86, on "Goethe and Byron."

273. For Swinburne's praise of this essay, see *Miscellanies*, p. 74.

274. Mazzini, iv. 78.

275. Landor, ii. 385.

276. It must be remarked, depending on *Vittoria*, Mazzini, vi. 34, iv. 232, etc., that these lights may have been to Mazzini no less than "God's handwriting."

277. The solution of the problem of contraries (if not the problem itself) seems to have come to Swinburne in connection with his study of Blake. Blake certainly (as interpreted by Swinburne) arraigned the Deistic interpretation of nature which "selects this and rejects that, assuming and presuming according to moral law and custom"; and advocates "the Pantheistic revelation which consecrates all things and absorbs all contraries" (Swinburne, *Blake*, p. 289, note). See also Appendix VIII., "The Influence of Arnold."

278. Landor, v. 85; Milton to Galileo.

279. *Rossetti Papers*, p. 446.

280. Landor, *Letters*, p. 336.

281. Landor, ii. 492.

282. Landor, vii. 260.

283. Landor, viii. 311.

284. Landor, viii. 314.

285. Landor, iii. 288.

286. Landor, v. 79.

287. Swinburne's "Before a Crucifix" needs the commentary of his *Blake*. Blake wrote :

He put on sin in the Virgin's womb,
And put it off on the cross and tomb,
To be worshipped by the church of Rome,

"not to speak of other churches" (Swinburne continues). "One may notice how to the Pantheist the Catholic's worship is a sin." The poem may be the less offensive if considered in the manner Swinburne suggests to the reader of *Blake*. "Let the reader meanwhile endure him a little further, suppressing if he is wise any comment on Blake's . . . 'blasphemous doggerel,' for he should now at least understand that this literal violence of manner, these light or grave audacities of mere form, imply no offensive purpose or significance, except insomuch as offence is inseparable from any kind of earnestly heretical belief."

288. It must also derive some support from Hugo, though the only instance I have found in turning over the leaves of Hugo's poems of earlier date than *Songs before Sunrise* is the "Lazare, Lazare, lève-toi" of "Au Peuple" in *Les Châtiments*; and this, much gentler than the usage described above, seems to echo in "A Marching Song" (*Songs before Sunrise*),—"France! . . . Break thou the covering cere-cloths; rise up from the dead!"

289. The poem opens with the line, "We are what winds and suns and waters make us." And this Swinburne uses for motto to "By the North Sea"; uses it, indeed, as sum of his own belief in nature: (see in "Thalassius" on freedom and the sea).

290. Cf. Landor, viii. 289.

291. John (now Lord) Morley, as Editor; and Swinburne, as contributor, came to the *Fortnightly Review* in January 1867. The article quoted is "England and the European Crisis," May 1867.

292. See Swinburne, *Note of an English Republican on the Muscovite Crusade*, 1876.

293. M'Carthy, *A History of Our Own Times*, ii. 255, etc.

294. M'Carthy, *A History of Our Own Times*, ii. 320. See also Swinburne, *Studies in Prose and Poetry*, p. 286, for Swinburne's recantation.

295. "To Shelley," see p. 158.

296. Swinburne, *Miscellanies*, p. 18.

297. Landor, iii. 488.

298. Landor, iv. 207.

299. Landor, iv. 79.

300. Landor, iv. 207.

301. Landor, ii. 195.

- 302. Landor, iv. 17.
- 303. See p. 45.
- 304. *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Landor," by Swinburne.
- 305. Landor, iv. 342.
- 306. Landor, v. 254.
- 307. Landor, v. 505.
- 308. Landor, v. 345.
- 309. Landor, iii. 458.
- 310. Landor, v. 528.

INDEX

"Ad Catullum," 64
 Addison, 79
 Aeschylus, 30, 31, 42, 43, 122, 212
 "Altar of Righteousness," 280
Anthology of Social Verse, Mr. Locker-Lampson's, 45, 225
 Aristophanes, 30, 43
 Arnold, Matthew, 122, 126, 278-80
 Ashburnham, Lady Jane Henrietta (Swinburne's mother), 8, 32
Atalanta in Calydon, 34, 41, 47, 50, 53, 85, 86, 87, 117, 119, 129, 182, 184, 185, 148, 237, 238
Athenaeum, criticism of *Erechtheus*, 42
 "Athens, Ode to," 212, 238
 Austria, 166 *seq.*
 "Ballad of Life, A," 85
 Bath, Landor at, 15, 18, 49
 Baudelaire, 89, 179, 274-7
 "Before a Crucifix," 198, 190
 "Birth Song," 48
 Blake, 44, 109, 122, 126, 132, 135, 174, 189
Bothwell, 179
 Browning, Robert, 8, 52
 Browning, Mrs., 8, 50, 76
 Burne-Jones, Sir Edward, 102
 Burns, 28
 Byron, 28, 153, 156, 208
 Carlyle, 138, 201
 Cavour, 75
 "Centenary of Landor, Song for the," 64-7, 71, 142, 187, 196, 206
Century of Roundels, 4, 48
Channel Passage and other Poems, 4, 55, 68
 Chastellard, 34, 36, 47, 85, 86, 119
 Chaucer, 44, 149
 Colvin, Sir Sidney, on Landor, 40, 154-5
 Como, Landor at, 16
Count Julian, 28
 Cowper, 28
 Culver Cliff, Swinburne climbs, 35
 Dante, 27, 31, 44
 Demosthenes, 26
 Dickens, 8, 21, 44
 "Dirac," sonnet sequence, 205
 "Dolores," 111
 Elizabethan influence on Swinburne, 98-5
Erechtheus, 42, 50, 211 *seq.*, 219, 238
Essays and Studies, 55
 Euripides, 30, 42
 "Eve of Revolution, The," 182, 203, 219
 "Ex Voto," 37, 38
 Fiesole, 8, 18, 20, 62
 Fitzgerald, 122, 126
 Florence, 52
Fra Ruperti, 74, 81
 "Garden of Proserpine, The," 85
 Garibaldi, 160, 163
Gebir, 152
 Gosse, Edmund, 34, 40, 42, 55, 69, 91, 179-80
Grand Chorus of Birds, 43
 Greece, 206 *seq.*
 "Greece and Crete, For," 212, 238
Hellenics, 82, 84, 91-3, 123, 125, 126, 132, 134, 135
Heroic Idylls, 160
 "Hesperia," 115
 Hogg, 152
 Homer, 27, 29, 31
 Hugo, Victor, 2-3, 8, 33, 50, 56, 57, 83, 84, 129, 130, 187, 205, 284-6

Imaginary Conversations, 12, 16, 50, 54, 121
Illes de Castro, 81
Iphigenia, 69
 Italy, 8, 12, 15, 20, 23, 74, 75, 156 seq.
 "Italy, A Song of," 162 seq., 237
 "Itylus," 8
 Jonson, Ben, 28
 Jowett, 31
 Keats, 18, 28
 Kosciusko, 19, 33, 176
 Kossuth, 20, 33
 Landor, Walter Savage: influence on Swinburne, 1; his style, 6; hatred of oppression, 11; at Rugby and Oxford, 11; his impetuosity, 12; at Como, 12; leaves Llanthony, his Welsh estate, 12; love of nature, 13 seq.; his solitude, 14-15; influence of nature, 16; devotion to plants and flowers, 18; his conversation, 19; in Spain, raised volunteer troop, 22; sympathy with social reforms, 23; love for children, 24; as a critic, 25; tribute to Browning, 28; on requisites of a great poet, 145 seq.
Last Fruit off an old Tree, 73
 "Laus Veneris," 89, 97, 100, 104 seq., 127
 Leighton, Lord, 101
 Leith, Mrs. Disney, 35
 "Litany of Nations, The," 199, 202
Locrine, 234
 Love, in works of Swinburne and Landor, 225-35
Love's Cross Currents, 173
 "Marching Song, A," 191, 201, 202
 Marlowe, 43, 80, 89, 91, 93
Mary Stuart, 179
 Mazzini, Giuseppe, 2-3, 8, 33, 56, 62, 160, 163, 177 seq., 237
 Meredith, George, 8, 39, 101, 103, 149, 161, 165, 281-3
 Milton, 25 seq., 44, 149, 203, 212
Miscellaneous Poems, 6
Miscellanies, 55
 Morley, Lord, 143, 200
 Morris, William, 89, 98, 102
 Napoleon III., 20, 74-9, 168
Notes on Poems and Reviews, 108
 "Ode on the Insurrection in Candia," 191, 210, 237
 "Ode on the Proclamation of the French Republic," 204-5
 "Ode to Athens," 212, 238
 Orsini, Felice (attempt on life of Louis Napoleon), 84, 70, 71
 Parallelisms, in Swinburne, 246-7, 249, 254-67, 269-70; Arnold and Swinburne, 279-80; Meredith and Swinburne, 282
 Parr, Dr., on Landor, 11
 Paynter, Rose, 21
Pentameron, 146, 150
Pericles and Aspasia, 13
 Piedmont, 75
 "Pilgrims, The," 191
 Pindar, 30, 31
 Plato, 25, 30, 44
Poems and Ballads, 34, 43, 47, 55, 62, 83 seq., 97-102, 119, 129, 148, 237
 Pre-Raphaelite influence on Swinburne, 95-102
 Prussia, 168
 Putney Heath, Swinburne's walks on, 39
Queen Mother, The, 34, 71, 73, 76, 79, 80, 84, 85, 89, 93, 127, 210, 236
 "Regeneration," 17, 155
 Risorgimento, 23-4, 78
Rosamond, 34, 89, 93, 96
 Rossetti, Christina, influence on Swinburne, 90, 111-15
 Rossetti, D. G., 38, 49, 89, 99, 101, 108
 Rossetti, W. M., 162, 178
 Ruskin, 138, 201
 "Russia, An Ode," 70
 Sappho, 30, 43
 Scott, 28, 44
 Shakespeare, 25, 27, 31, 43
 Shelley, 8, 18, 43, 122, 126, 152 seq., 208 seq., 212
Siege of Ancona, The, 75
 "Siena," 182, 199
 "Song of the Standard," 182
Songs before Sunrise, 55, 62-4, 76, 118, 119, 139, 149-204, 223, 238
Songs of the Spring Tides, 55
Songs of Two Nations, 139, 149 seq., 204-5
 Sophocles, 30, 212
 Southey, 16, 19, 28

Spenser, 28
 Stuart, Charles Edward, 32
 Stuart, Mary (Queen of Scots), 32, 36
Studies in Prose and Poetry, 55
Studies in Song, 55, 70
 "Super Flumina Babylonis," 192, 199
 Swinburne, Algernon Charles :
 birth and parentage, 32 ; his two great heroes, Hugo and Mazzini, 2-3 ; his style, 6 ; devotion to the Stuarts, 32 ; his liberalism, 33 ; Bohemian years, 34 ; first poems, 34 ; revolutionary opinions, 35 ; riding and swimming, 36 ; in London, 38 ; composed out of doors, 39 ; as critic, 44-46 ; his tribute to Blake, 44 ; on Morris's *Jason*, 44 ; his love of children, 46, 229, 239 ; sympathy for suffering, 49 ; meets Landor in Florence (1864), 52 ; his debt to Hugo, 56 ; last published mention of Landor, 68 ; Landor's influence, 69, 88 ; lifelong affection for Landor, 69 ; his liberalism, 84 ; on Rossetti's "Burden of Nineveh," 108-9, and "Jenny," 110 ; use of "God" and "gods," 121 ; confession of artistic faith, 144 ; abuse of kings and priests, 197 ; heterodox, 198 ; love for Greece, 208, 238 ; development of his genius, 211-12, 231, 236 ; love for the sea, 214 seq., 239, animals and flowers, 239 ; chronology of poems, 243-73 ; influence of Baudelaire, 274-7, Arnold, 278-80, Meredith, 281-3, and Hugo (in early period), 284-6
 Swinburne, Admiral Charles Henry (Swinburne's father), 32
 "Tenebrae," 190
 Tennyson, 201
 "Thalassius," 56 seq., 85, 88, 142, 187, 214-24, 236
 Trelawny, 8
Tristran of Lyonesse, 48, 179, 231
 "Triumph of Time, The," 217
 "Tyrannicide, Virtue of." See "Virtue of Tyrannicide"
Under the Microscope, 49
 Victor Emmanuel, 168 seq.
 Villon, 43
 "Virtue of Tyrannicide," 34, 69-70, 72, 83
 Wagner, 103
 Watts-Dunton, Theodore, 38, 39
Westminster Review, 86
 Wimbledon Common, Swinburne's walks on, 39
 Wordsworth, 18, 28, 156

THE END

